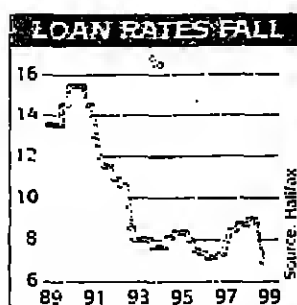




Mortgage rates tumble to lowest level for 33 years



By DIANE COYLE
and ANDREW GRICE

THE COST of home loans fell to its lowest level for more than 30 years yesterday after the Bank of England announced a surprise half-point reduction in interest rates, to 5.5 per cent.

The Bank's swift moves to lower interest rates, with five cuts in five months, will allow the Chancellor to use next month's Budget to present a reasonably upbeat outlook for the economy.

Mortgage lenders were swift to follow the Bank's move. The Halifax, Britain's biggest mortgage lender, cut its rate within minutes by 0.5 per cent to 6.95 per cent, bringing it down to its lowest level since 1966. The typical monthly payment on a £100,000 interest-only mortgage has fallen from a peak of £223 last summer to £202. The Nationwide, the biggest mutual, cut its standard variable rate by the same amount, to 6.45 per cent.

Yesterday's announcement was seen by Treasury insiders as particularly reassuring to those inside and outside the Labour Party who feared that the Bank's monetary committee would sacrifice growth and jobs for the sake of lower inflation.

Although Labour MPs were worried that the Bank's move reflected its concern about the economy, cabinet ministers are increasingly confident that Britain will avoid recession and that the Government will reap political benefit from the sharp fall in rates.

One minister said that Gordon Brown now had a "unique opportunity" to emerge as a Labour chancellor who had steered the economy success-



Business cycle in the City. Yesterday's rates move will allow the Chancellor to use next month's Budget to present a reasonably upbeat outlook

Brian Harris

fully through difficult waters. Tony Blair said yesterday: "What we have been concerned to do, both by getting rid of the huge budget deficit and the programme for independence of the Bank of England, is to make sure we go into this difficult situation with stability in place." The fact that interest rates were now at such a low level "gives us a much better chance to come through any dif-

ficulties we have and to emerge far stronger for the future". Business, unions and the City welcomed the announcement. But borrowing costs need to fall lower still, according to many in industry. "The Bank has probably avoided a full-blown recession, but the economy is still in a fragile state," said Ian Peters, deputy director-general of the British Chambers of Commerce.

The latest move was widely seen as a vindication of Mr Brown's decision to give the Bank of England responsibility for hitting the inflation target. "We are seeing the real benefit of an independent Bank of England," said Steven Bell, an economist at Deutsche Bank. However, the Tories said the bigger-than-expected rate cut showed that no one believed the Government's forecasts for

growth. "The Bank clearly thinks the economy is in a lot more trouble than Gordon Brown complacently predicts," Francis Maude, the shadow Chancellor, said. Graham Mackenzie, director-general of the Engineering Employers' Federation, said the decision had come much too late for his industry. "The adverse differential between UK and European interest rates is not

sustainable," he said. Britain has the highest interest rates among the world's leading industrial countries. European rates are expected to fall from their current 3 per cent, while the United States are 4.75 per cent. In its statement, the Bank said uncertain international prospects and subdued costs made the half-point reduction necessary to keep inflation near its 2.5 per cent target. The

Bank is expected to report next week that inflation pressures have diminished.

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Cook is rebuked over Sierra Leone

By FRAN ABRAMS
and ANDREW GRICE

ROBIN COOK'S most senior official will face severe criticism next week from an official inquiry into the arms-to-Sierra Leone affair. The Independent has learnt.

The Foreign Secretary will be rebuked for failings in his department, but will be cleared of knowing a British firm was shipping arms in breach of a UN embargo.

A report from the Commons Select Committee on Foreign Affairs, to be published next Tuesday, will be more harsh than Sir Thomas Legg's investigation, ordered by Mr Cook, which reported last July.

Sir John Kerr, Permanent Secretary at the Foreign Office and Head of the Diplomatic Service, will take the brunt of the report's most damaging findings. His officials held meetings with representatives from Sandline, the British firm of mercenaries that shipped arms to Sierra Leone.

The company, Sir John and Mr Cook will all be criticised for withholding information and witnesses from the select committee. Its inquiry was refused permission to interview Sir David Spedding, the head of MI6, and met fierce resistance from the Foreign Office over access to official dispatches. Sir David gave evidence instead to the Commons Intelligence and Security Committee in private.

However, one committee source said Sir John was unlikely to face dismissal as a result of the report. "There are criticisms all the way along the line. That's the difference between our report and the Legg report. We saw faults at almost every level. I doubt if Robin Cook will exactly enjoy the report," the source said.

Symphony of jargon scares concert-goers

By DAVID LISTER
Arts News Editor

YOU SIT down in the concert hall for a performance of Dvorak's *Czech Suite Op 39* and glance at the programme for guidance. There is, it explains, "a featured cor anglais enriching and bucolicizing the sound world". Now that's clear - on with the show.

Research by the Association of British Orchestras and Royal Society of Arts into concert programmes has found the age of jargon is not dead. And that note for the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment at the Royal Festival Hall is far from unique in making the casual concert-goer scared stiff of classical music.

In case anyone had not heard Debussy's *La Mer*, the programme at the Philharmonia's performance reassured: "Orientalist pentatonic or ardent chromatic, these wind-down melodies arch and sigh

in repetitively lapping undulations." That may have been Greek to half the audience but it had the advantage of brevity. The same cannot be said for a note for Tchaikovsky's *Symphony No 5*. In a sentence just short of 70 words it explained: "The most disturbing aspect of the *allegro con anima* is not the sinister character of the first subject introduced by the clarinet and bassoon over the stealth of the strings: it is more disturbing that the second-subject melody, which enters *molto piu tranquillo* in D major on violins choking for breath on the first heat of every bar, is never allowed to fulfil its expressive potential."

Margaret Levin, marketing director of the Corn Exchange in Cambridge, agrees that too

often programme notes are written in an "erudite and inaccessible style". It is time, she says, in the report, for programme writers to avoid less common musical terms used without any explanation. They should also stop referring to similarities with other pieces, which she calls "a form of musical name-dropping or one-upmanship". And, lastly, they should avoid detailed analysis of movements in terms of entries, key changes, and so on. These, she says, "turn programme notes into a musical orienteering course".

Audiences are also cottoning on to another programme-writing trick. They told the researchers that they are fed up with blatant promotion of the artist. It has not gone unnoticed that these are often written by the agent of the soloist or the conductor.

Ulster beatings put peace under pressure

By DAVID MCKITTRICK
Ireland Correspondent

THE BRITISH and Irish governments were last night struggling to steer the Irish peace process through one of its most precarious phases, as political and paramilitary pressure combined to increase instability. London and Dublin are facing worrying signs that the ceasefires of both the IRA and the Ulster Volunteer Force, one of the largest of the loyalist groupings, are fraying. "Punishment" beatings continue apace, splinter groups on both sides appear to represent a growing danger and a court case in Ireland has given the credibility of the process a hard knock.

A political firestorm has developed over the decision of the prosecution to drop charges of murder against four men

group responsible for the Omagh bombing, has placed a question-mark over the stability of the organisation.

This threat was underlined last night in a Channel 4 interview with former prisoner Brendan McCleanagh, who says he supports Republican Sinn Féin, which is regarded as the political wing of another splinter group, Continuity IRA.

Asked if he could imagine the Continuity IRA setting off bombs in London, he said: "Nothing has changed much to suggest to me that it isn't a possibility that something like that could happen again."

There are also reports that the UVF has smuggled in a new consignment of weapons. At the same time, splinter groups styling themselves "Red Hand Defenders" and "Orange Volunteers" have been carrying out petrol-bomb attacks on Catholic homes.

In the north, the IRA's admission that some of its guns had been taken by defectors from the Real IRA, the splinter

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accused of the 1996 IRA killing of Irish detective Jerry McCabe. The prosecution agreed instead to accept guilty pleas to the lesser charge of manslaughter.

One of Dublin's main daily newspapers expressed "disarray, bafflement and outrage" at the move.

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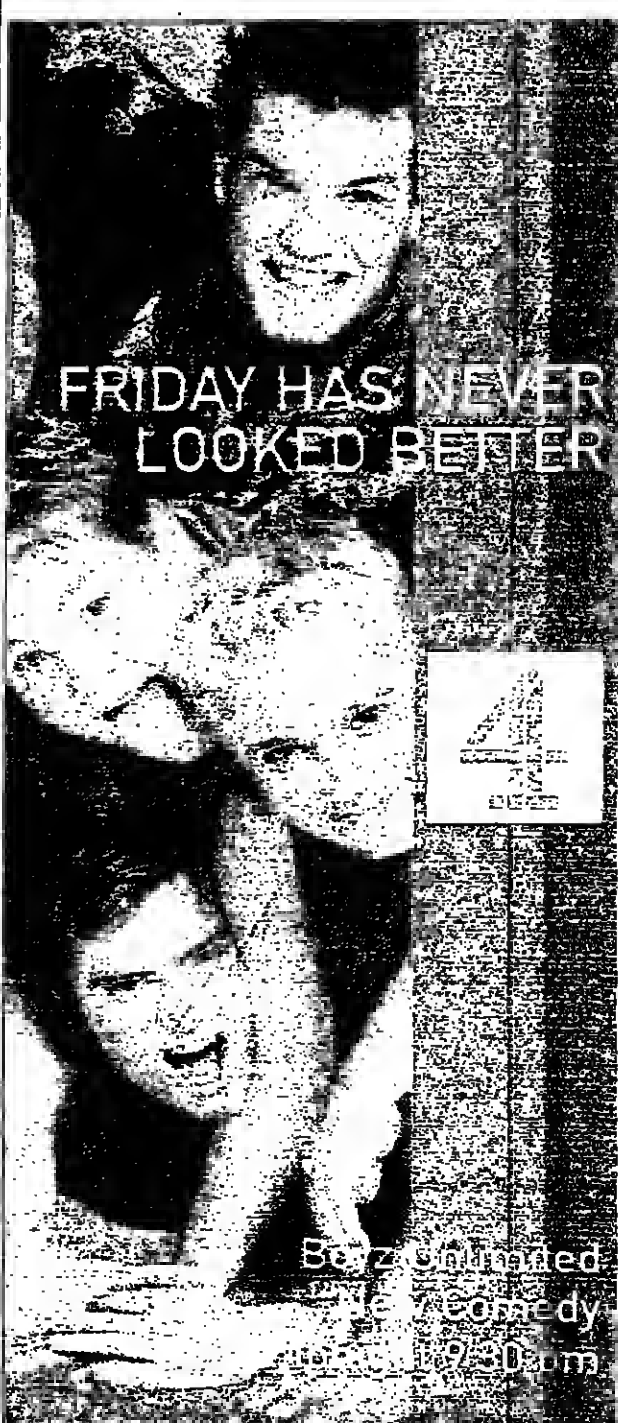
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Belgium 36.50 BF
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Czech 1.20 CZ
Denmark 112.4
Ecuador 18.00 D\$
Finland 15.00 FM
France 16.00 FF
Germany 4.50 DM
Ghana 1.00 GH\$
Hong Kong 2.00 HK\$
Italy 12.00 Lit
Japan 5.00 ¥
Korea 100.00 W\$
Malta 6.50 M\$
Netherlands 5.50 guilder
Norway 26.00 Nkr
Portugal 200.00 Esc
Spain 166.64 Ptas
Sweden 21.00 S\$
Switzerland 5.00 Sfr
Taiwan 2.00 NT\$
USA 0.75 US\$

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TODAY'S TELEVISION
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Attacks at highest level for decade

BY KIM SENGUPTA AND PAUL LASHMAR

THE 42 punishment attacks the Royal Ulster Constabulary says have taken place this year represent the highest number recorded for a decade in the province.

In one attack, masked men who smashed their way into Noel Diver's home and broke his legs with hurley sticks realised almost immediately they had got the wrong man. Shrugging off their mistake, they went next door to Michael Brennan, their intended target, and broke both his arms. It was just another example of the wave of punishment beatings and shootings which is piling pressure on the peace process.

Kneecappings and beatings have been part of Ulster's recent history but they have become, with impunity over the decommissioning of arms, part of the fault-line of the Good Friday Agreement. Critics of the agreement see the issue as an example of how the paramilitaries have kept on the path of violence and are therefore in breach of the agreement.

The RUC Chief Constable, Sir Ronnie Flanagan, is unequivocal about who is responsible: "I have no doubt both from intelligence and the pattern of activity that this is organised by organisations; this is not the activity of individuals. This activity is engaged by organisations who say they are in a cessation of military operations. The IRA, UVF and UDA - these organisations have been involved in barbarity."

The political parties with connections to the paramilitaries try to deny involvement. A Sinn Féin spokesman said that not only was Sinn Féin not involved in punishment attacks, it had no knowledge of IRA involvement. The party also challenges the reliability of the



Sir Ronnie Flanagan: The attacks are organised

RUC statistics and the pressure group Families Against Intimidation and Terror.

David Irvine, of the Progressive Unionist Party, which has links with the loyalist Ulster Volunteer Force, when asked why he had not used his influence to stop the attacks responded: "Do you think if I had the capacity to stop them, they would not already be stopped?"

Sir Ronnie has maintained the paramilitaries carry out the beatings and shooting to maintain "social control" in their areas while putting out the excuse that there is a "policing vacuum".

However, many on the streets with knowledge of these attacks say the dynamics are much more complicated. Unpalatable as it may seem, they say the paramilitaries are in the vast majority of cases responding to the wishes of the communities in their heartland for rough and ready justice. And for various reasons a "policing vacuum" has indeed been created.

It is not easy to disentangle what lies behind the attacks. With few notable exceptions, the victims are unwilling to speak publicly about their experience. While most attacks appear to be sanctioned by the

loyalist and nationalist paramilitaries, a small percentage are the result of personal criminal vendettas. A small proportion of the sanctioned attacks are for disciplinary offences against wayward members of the paramilitary groups, but the great majority are against those accused of anti-social behaviour, ranging from joy-riding to burglary to drug-dealing to sexual offences.

Police and social service sources say there are discernible differences between punishment attacks in nationalist and loyalist areas. In the former they tend to be more structured, while in the latter they are more disorganised. Also in the loyalist areas there are vastly more beatings and shootings connected with feuds over drug-dealing.

Most of the targets are young men and the scale of the brutality of the punishment depends on the severity of the offence.

But they can "go wrong" and recent cases of this have included that of Andrew Peden, whose bloody stumps, due to a shotgun blast in a loyalist kneecapping which went wrong, have been extensively publicised and have caused widespread public revulsion.

Sir Ronnie said there is evidence that the punishment squads are shooting lower down in the hands and ankles "This is conscious decision to do it in a less debilitating way."

The news that Amnesty International is to send a delegation to Northern Ireland to look at the issue of punishment attacks, as part of a broad investigation into human rights issues, has been widely welcomed here.

But according to Sir Ronnie they can be stopped immediately. "If the IRA, UVF and UDA as organisations decided they should stop, it will stop."



Nicholas Mullen outside the Court of Appeal yesterday moments after he was freed

James Horton

Republican bomb team's fixer freed on extradition technicality

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

THE LAST republican prisoner held in a British jail was freed yesterday after a court decided that his conviction nine years ago of conspiracy to cause explosions was unlawful.

Nicholas Mullen, 50, was convicted in 1990 of being a key member of an IRA bomb-making factory in south London. He was widely described as one of the terrorists' "top fixers".

But yesterday the Court of Appeal decided that while there was no impropriety in his trial, the way in which he was extradited from Zimbabwe rendered his subsequent conviction unlawful.

Lord Justice Rose said the court was allowing the appeal because of the "highly unusual circumstances" of the case. He insisted that there was no criticism of the trial judge or

jury, and no challenge to the propriety of the trial's outcome.

At that trial, Mr Mullen was described as a key member of a terrorist cell that was planning a mainland bombing campaign. He was said to have rented a series of properties, including a flat in Clapham, which were to be used to make the bombs.

The trial heard that he was involved in a plot to fire mortar bombs at the Houses of Parliament. Police said lists, in his handwriting, of potential mortar targets were found.

The court heard that he used tactics similar to those used in the Frederick Forsyth novel *The Day of the Jackal*, utilising the Public Records Office to find birth certificates

of people who had died which he could then use to apply for passports and driving licences.

Mr Mullen was traced in 1988 as a result of documents found by police at the Clapham flat - where police found detonators, timing devices and 100lb of Semtex - he fled to Zimbabwe with his daughter and girlfriend.

The Court of Appeal yesterday decided that the way in which he was extradited from Africa was unlawful. The direction to deport him did not come, as it should, from Zimbabwe's chief immigration officer, but rather from the UK or Zimbabwean secret service, said Lord Justice Rose. As a result the subsequent conviction had to be quashed.

He said: "For a conviction to be safe it must be lawful - and if it results from a trial which should never have taken place it can hardly be regarded as safe. The British authorities initiated and subsequently assisted in and procured the deportation of Mullen by unlawful means in circumstances in which there were specific extradition facilities between this country and Zimbabwe."

Mr Mullen was born in Cambridge, the son of an RAF electrician from Ireland and an English mother.

He was raised in England and graduated from Middlesex Polytechnic with a BA in social sciences.

In 1990 the court was told that Mr Mullen was recruited by the IRA at the age of 15.

"I am glad to be going out of the front door rather than the

back door today - I am just sorry it has taken so long," said Mr Mullen.

A spokesman for the Northern Ireland Office said yesterday that Mr Mullen was not eligible for release under the terms of the Good Friday Agreement as he had been held in a British prison - HMP Frankland, Durham - and not a jail in Northern Ireland.

Andrew Hunter, the Conservative MP for Basingstoke, who has visited Mr Mullen in jail, said that the decision was long overdue.

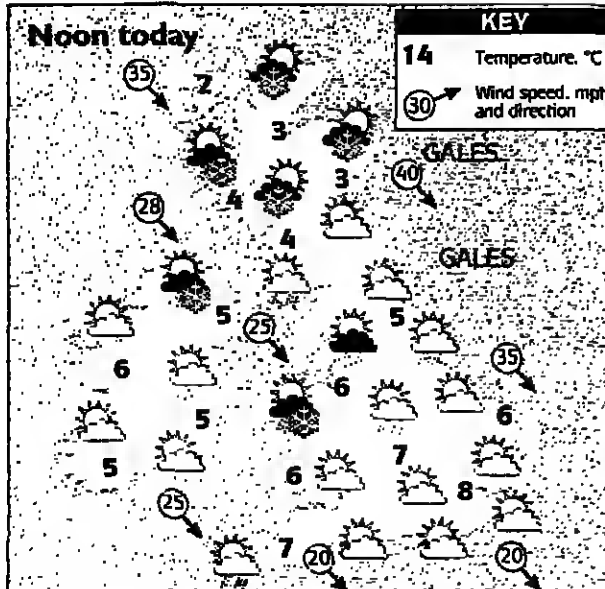
"I have argued for a long time that the British and Zimbabwean authorities acted improperly and unlawfully when they seized Mullen in Harare... and forcefully escorted him to England where he was arrested," he said.

PUNISHMENTS BY PARAMILITARIES

	Republican	Loyalist
1994	86	106
1995	141	79
1996	175	151
1997	104	124
1998	93	120

Source: Royal Ulster Constabulary

BRITAIN TODAY



FORECAST
General situation: South and south-east England will be colder than recently but it will be sunnier with only the outside chance of a shower. The rest of England and Wales, together with Northern Ireland, will also be cold with sunny spells and scattered showers. The showers most frequent in the west and turning wintry over the mountains. Scotland will be bitterly cold with showers and a strong wind leading to blizzards in the highlands. There will also be some sleet or snow even at lower levels by the end of the day.

Cent S & SE England, London, Channel Is: Breezy and cold but generally dry and bright with only a small risk of a shower. A fresh north-westerly wind. Max temp 6-8°C (43-46°F).

E Anglia, NE England, E England: Very windy with one or two showers, however, there will also be some decent sunny spells. A strong north-westerly wind. Max temp 5-7°C (41-45°F).

Midlands, Cent N, SW & NW England, Lake Dist, Isle of Man, Wales: Blustery heavy showers and a few sunny spells. The showers are likely to turn wintry over the mountains later. A strong north-westerly wind. Max temp 5-8°C (41-46°F).

N Ireland: Rather cold and windy with frequent heavy showers and only limited sunny spells. Some of the showers will turn wintry later. A strong north-westerly wind. Max temp 4-7°C (39-45°F).

SW, NW & NE Scotland, Glasgow, Aberdeen, N & W Isles: Very windy and cold with frequent sharp showers. Blizzards on hills and wintry at lower levels. Later too. A strong to gale force north-westerly wind. Max temp 3-6°C (37-43°F).

SE Scotland & Edinburgh: Cold and windy with showers on hills, many of them wintry. A strong to gale force north-westerly wind. Max temp 3-6°C (37-43°F).

OUTLOOK
Saturday will also be cold with sunny spells and showers, the showers increasing in intensity. After a sharp overnight, Sunday will turn even colder with further showers, many of them wintry, although southern parts will stay mostly dry.

TRAVEL
London: A12 Green Man Roundabout, Laytonstone. Major roadworks on new M11 link road. Until 21st December. Cambridge: A10 between Foston and A11. Roadworks and bridge maintenance work at Shenington Hill. Until 14th February. Bristol: M5 J16-19. Major Roadworks on Avonmouth Bridge. Until 20th June 2001. Lancashire: M6 Between J27 Sandbach and J28 Leyland. Roadworks, widening and a 20mph speed limit either side of Chorley. Richard Services. Until 15th February. Greater Manchester: A57. Harpole lane, Manchester-bound, due to Metrolink construction work. Until 26th February. South Yorkshire: M1 Between J34 Tinsley Viaduct (A6109) & J34 Tinsley Viaduct (A6178) Sheffield. Carriageway reduced to 2 lanes southbound. Until 21st November 2000. Gloucestershire: A40 Lansdown Rd. Cheltenham. Closed due to roadworks around. Diversion in place. Until 1st June. Suffolk: A14 Felixstowe Docks. Roadworks. Until 26th February. All Roadworks: Call 0336 401777 for the latest local and national traffic news. Source: The Automobile Association. Calls charged at 50p per min (inc VAT).

LIGHTING UP

	5.10pm	6.04am
Belfast	5.00pm	7.41am
Birmingham	5.06pm	7.41am
Bristol	5.06pm	7.41am
Glasgow	4.58pm	8.02am
London	4.57pm	7.32am
Manchester	4.50pm	7.46am
Newcastle	4.51pm	7.48am

Height measured in metres

HIGH TIDES

	AM	HT	PM	HT
Amesbury	10.06	12.7	10.24	12.3
Cardiff	8.33	4.7	8.48	4.1
Cardigan	8.27	5.2	8.46	4.9
Cardiff	1.41	6.6	1.59	6.2
Cardiff	2.13	3.8	2.34	4.0
Cardiff	7.39	5.0	8.17	4.7
Cardiff	3.13	3.3	3.24	3.7
Cardiff	2.29	3.9	2.52	3.7
Cardiff	1.04	5.2	1.18	5.4
Cardiff	9.14	8.2	9.21	8.6
Cardiff	9.20	6.1	9.18	6.4
Cardiff	5.34	5.2	5.54	5.2
Cardiff	1.55	8.9	2.10	9.0
Cardiff	8.07	6.6	8.26	6.3
Cardiff	9.46	1.9	10.09	1.6
Cardiff	2.04	4.5	2.12	4.6
Cardiff	8.01	6.6	8.21	6.3
Cardiff	9.46	1.9	10.09	1.6
Cardiff	2.04	4.5	2.12	4.6
Cardiff	10.59	4.6	11.20	4.3
Cardiff	7.08	5.4	7.10	5.5
Cardiff	2.08	3.3	2.18	3.5

Height measured in metres

AIR QUALITY

	PM ₁₀	SO ₂
London	Good	Good
S England	Good	Good
Wales	Good	Good
Scotland	Good	Good
N Ireland	Good	Good

Source: The Met Office. Calls charged at 50p per min (inc VAT)

SUN & MOON

Sun rises: 07.33
Sun sets: 16.37
Moon rises: 22.31
Moon sets: 09.45
Last Quarter Feb 5

WEATHERLINE

For the latest forecasts dial 0800 5009 followed by the two digits for your area. Source: The Met Office. Calls charged at 50p per min (inc VAT)

COME RAIN OR SHINE...

SEVERE GALES caused havoc across northern Britain yesterday. Exposed roads became littered with lorries blown over in gusts reaching 90mph, while thousands of homes in northern Scotland were left without power. And forecasters predict little respite for the next 24 hours. Martin Airey from the PA WeatherCentre said: "The extremely windy weather will be around until tomorrow lunchtime, and even after that there will be strong gusts."

YESTERDAY

EXTREMES

Warmest: Harrogate 15C (59F)
Coldest (day): Lerwick 4C (39F)
Wettest: Altnaharra 0.99 ins
Sunniest: Newcastle 6.7 hrs
For 24hrs to 6pm Thursday

24 hours to 6pm Thursday

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THE WORLD

EUROPE NOON TODAY

Key: 0-10°C
11-20°C
21-30°C
Over 30°C

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Over 30°C

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IRA murder case charges reduced

DUBLIN YESTERDAY rejected as "outrageous" any suggestion of political interference after four men on trial for killing a garda in an IRA robbery had their murder charges reduced to manslaughter.

Amid widespread belief that intimidation of witnesses led to the altered charges, opposition parties yesterday demanded an emergency Dail debate and a statement from the Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern.

Senior sources flatly denied there had been any communication between the government and the director of public

By ALAN MURDOCH in Dublin

prosecutions, who approved the reduction in the charges, as Irish legal experts regarded the manslaughter move.

The DPP appears to have been guided by fears the murder prosecution would fall because of a lack of evidence, allowing the accused to go free.

The justice minister will clarify the legal issues to the Dail when the case has ended.

The four will be sentenced before the no-jury anti-terrorist Special Criminal Court today.

Good News For
NatWest
Small Business
Customers

Interest rates applicable to
Business Overdraft Agreements,
Business Loan Agreements* and
Flexible Business Loan Agreements*
are reduced by 1/2% per annum
with effect from
5 February 1999.

*This notice does not apply to agreements which specify the rate as fixed or linked to Base Rate.

NatWest

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صكنا من الاصل

Bludgeoned, maimed, tortured: a month of beatings in Ulster

BY CLARE GARNER
AND PAUL LASHMAR

PUNISHMENT BY the paramilitary organisations comes in many forms. Sometimes it can be a bullet through the fleshy part of the leg, or the sadistic, persistent beating around the knees and ankles with baseball bats or pickaxe handles spiked with nails.

Since the start of 1998, 42 such beatings have been recorded by the Royal Ulster Constabulary. This marks a dramatic resurgence in violence after a period during which the paramilitary organisations had been relatively inactive. The following are details of some of the attacks.

1 January

Belfast
A man had both his hands broken when he was attacked with iron bars in the afternoon in north Belfast.

3 January

Belfast
A man was beaten with pickaxe handles studded with nails. The attack, during the afternoon in east Belfast, caused bruising to his body. Two further incidents occurred in Newtownards. The victims, both men, were beaten with iron bars.

4 January

Belfast
A 25-year-old man was taken to hospital after being beaten by a number of men wielding pickaxe handles in the Markets area of Belfast. The man had injuries to his head, chest and both legs.

5 January

Antrim
A gang of five masked men armed with a handgun and metal bars smashed their way into a flat occupied by a woman, a 15-year-old youth and two men in Donegore Drive, Antrim. The two men were taken into the kitchen and beaten. Both suffered head and leg injuries. In a second incident, two men, aged 27 and 29, were each shot once in the leg just before 6pm. They were found lying together in an alleyway at Falcarragh Drive, in the Lenadoon area of west Belfast. One of them had been grabbed and huddled into a car while walking in the Ballymurphy area; the other is thought to have been forced into another car while walking on the Falls Road. Both were driven to Lenadoon to be shot. All four men involved in the day's incidents were hospitalised.

6 January

Lurgan
Two men in the Lurgan area were beaten with iron bars, and suffered leg and head injuries.

7 January

Belfast
Two punishment-style attacks took place in the Ormeau Road and Rathcoole areas of Belfast. One man in his twenties was taken to hospital with leg injuries after being beaten with batons and iron bars in Hatfield Street. Another man, also in his twenties, was taken to hospital after being shot in the leg in an incident near the Irish Highway Inn, in Rathcoole, on the outskirts of the city at around 7.15pm.

8 January

Bangor
Stephen Paul, in his twenties, was left in a critical condition after a shooting incident on the loyalist Killooley estate, in Bangor, Co Down. Despite his injuries he managed to stagger several hundred yards to a main road. He was picked up by an ambulance, which took him to Belfast's Royal Victoria Hospital where he had emergency surgery. Mr Paul is the nephew of William "Wassie" Paul, a loyalist drug dealer, who was shot dead a few streets away last July. In a separate incident, two men were beaten with pickaxe handles by three masked men who broke into a house in Killybegs, Londonderry. The victims, aged 35 and 39, suffered cuts and bruising to their heads and bodies.

9 January

Strabane
Six masked IRA men burst into the house of Noel Diver, who lives with his partner and child on a republican estate in Strabane, Co Tyrone. They pulled the 24-year-old from the sofa and beat him with baseball

bats and an iron bar. It was several minutes before they realised that they had the wrong house and the wrong man. They left without a word, went next door, seized 22-year-old Michael Brennan, and offered a running commentary as they smashed his limbs. "Wait till you hear this one break," one shouted, as he swung a baseball bat down at Mr Brennan's arm. "You're a big man now," said another as they left their victim groaning on his kitchen floor. Both men were left with broken arms and legs, and injuries to their ankles and heads. Two masked men, armed with a baseball bat and a wooden baton, attacked a 17-year-old youth at The Quay, Killybegs. The victim received bruising to his head, back, face and hand in the attack.

12 January

Londonderry
An 18-year-old man was beaten with a baseball bat in an attack in Londonderry. He suffered severe bruising.

14 January

Belfast
A 23-year-old man was shot in the thigh by two men at Malvern Way in Belfast's Shankill area. He was taken to hospital for treatment.

15 January

Belfast
A 24-year-old man was detained in hospital after being attacked and beaten with sticks in the Markets area of Belfast. He suffered broken ankles and bruising. Later, another 24-year-old man was shot in the right calf by three masked men at Mount Vernon Park in north Belfast.

17 January

Lisburn
A 32-year-old man required hospital treatment after being beaten by three men armed with a hammer and a wooden bat in Low Road, Lisburn Co Antrim. He suffered a broken wrist and bruising to his head.

20 January

Lurgan
At around 9.15pm a number of masked men entered a house at Lurgan, Lurgan, and attacked the male occupant with sticks. The victim, who was in his thirties, was then shot in the right arm, right knee and left ankle. He was detained in hospital for treatment.

18 January

Lisburn
A 33-year-old man was beaten with a hammer and baseball bat in an attack in the Lisburn district of Antrim. He suffered a broken wrist.

23 January

Belfast
A 17-year-old youth was shot in the right leg by loyalist paramilitaries in an alleyway off Hopewell Avenue, in the Shankill area of Belfast. In a separate incident two men beat workers at Roscoff Restaurant, in central Belfast, with hammers. This incident has not been confirmed as paramilitary.

25 January

Rasharkin

In Rasharkin, Co Antrim an 18-year-old youth suffered head and face injuries when three masked men burst into his house and beat him with clubs, in what is presumed to have been a loyalist attack. A second man in the house escaped injury by jumping out of a first-floor window. Earlier, in what appeared to be another paramilitary-style shooting, at Maghera, Co Londonderry, a man was shot in the leg. Also, Sean Adams, 13, Gerry Adams' nephew, and a friend, suffered a punishment beating in the St James area of the Falls Road.

26 January

Newry
Eamon Collins, aged 44, died after what is thought to be an attack by Republicans. He had been repeatedly stabbed and attacked with a blunt object. His body was found in a ditch in Newry. Collins, a former IRA member who had been jailed, turned against the IRA and wrote a book about his exploits. In another incident, which took place shortly after 10pm, a 20-

year-old man was shot in both hands and his right ankle on Rossmore Avenue, in the republican area of west Belfast.

30 January

Newtownabbey
Seven people were taken to hospital after being assaulted by a masked gang at Newtownabbey Co Antrim. The woman, teenage girl and five men in their late teens and early twenties were attacked by masked men when their Ford Fiesta pulled up outside the woman's house in the Ballyduff district after a night out. After assaulting the seven people they set fire to the Fiesta and to their own car. The attackers—at least one of whom carried a gun—had earlier forced their way into the house, smashing windows and terrifying a babysitter and two children, aged seven and eight. The assault took place hours after a man in his early thirties was shot in the Catholic area of Cookstown, Co Tyrone, in what was treated as a punishment attack, said to have been carried out by the IRA.

1 February

Cookstown
At 8.30pm a 28-year-old man was abducted by two masked men in Fountain Road, Cookstown, in Co Tyrone. The man was driven around for two hours in the back of a Citroën car, until at 10.45pm in Moygashel, a republican area of Co Tyrone, he was told to lie on the ground and was shot in the right leg.

2 February

Lisnaskea
At 8.30pm a number of men broke into a house in Lisnaskea, Co Fermanagh. They confronted a man in his forties in the hallway of his home, in front of his daughter. They struck him on the head with a sledgehammer and during the struggle shot him in the stomach. He was taken to hospital, where he was described as "seriously ill, but stable." Detectives believe that paramilitaries set out to shoot and mutilate the man and have now left him with a bullet wound to his abdomen.

3 February

Belfast
A 40-year-old man was shot in the foot in a Protestant area of east Belfast.



Michael Brennan (left) and Noel Diver, who both had limbs broken by a masked gang in their Strabane, County Tyrone, homes on 9 January

Crispin Rodwell

First Active Making money work...

First Active Direct Demand Account

Balance (£)	500+	1000+	2500+	5000+	10,000+	25,000+	50,000+	100,000+
Gross AER	4.50%	5.00%	5.35%	5.45%	5.55%	5.65%	5.75%	5.85%
Net AER	3.60%	4.00%	4.26%	4.36%	4.44%	4.52%	4.60%	4.68%

First Active Direct Notice Accounts

Balance (£)	500+	1000+	2500+	5000+	10,000+	25,000+	50,000+	100,000+
30 Day Notice								
Gross AER	5.15%	5.35%	5.45%	5.55%	5.65%	5.75%	5.85%	5.95%
Net AER	4.12%	4.28%	4.36%	4.44%	4.52%	4.60%	4.68%	4.76%
Gross Monthly	5.03%	5.22%	5.32%	5.41%	5.51%	5.60%	5.70%	5.79%
Net Monthly	4.03%	4.18%	4.25%	4.33%	4.41%	4.48%	4.56%	4.63%

90 Day Notice

Gross AER	5.60%	5.70%	5.80%	5.90%	6.00%	6.10%	6.20%	6.30%
Net AER	4.48%	4.56%	4.64%	4.72%	4.80%	4.88%	4.96%	5.04%
Gross Monthly	5.46%	5.56%	5.65%	5.74%	5.84%	5.94%	6.03%	6.13%
Net Monthly	4.37%	4.45%	4.52%	4.60%	4.67%	4.75%	4.82%	4.90%

First Active Direct Access Account

Balance (£)	5000+	10,000+	25,000+	50,000+	100,000+
Gross AER	5.85%	5.95%	6.05%	6.15%	6.25%
Net AER	4.68%	4.76%	4.84%	4.92%	5.00%

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Suburbs 'may be slums of tomorrow'

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With a thousand To's and
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BY NICHOLAS SCHOON

BRITAIN'S SUBURBS, as immortalised by Sir John Betjeman, are in danger of a rapid downhill slide which could even turn them into tomorrow's slums, warns a report published today.

Dominated by owner-occupiers and home to most Britons, the nation's suburbs are largely taken for granted. John Major once described them as "invincible".

But some, especially those ringing the largest cities, are being battered by stresses which are making their better-off occupants flee in droves. And that could concentrate poverty within them, giving them the same social problems as the inner city.

Michael Williams, director of the Civic Trust, the charity which campaigns to make cities more attractive, and one of the report's authors, said: "It's understandable that most attention in the debate about urban renewal has been focussed on inner cities. But the lack of analysis and debate about suburban areas is disturbing. Some parts of them need early attention if they are to avoid becoming tomorrow's problems."

Les Sparks, Birmingham's chief planning officer, agreed. "We mustn't neglect the typical, sprawling 20th-century suburbs," he said. "In Birmingham we're concerned about the prob-

lems of outward migration from them." He said the people moving out "leapfrogging the green belt" into shire towns, were largely "white, middle-class, employed home owners" and they left poorer people behind.

The report, *Sustainable Renewal of Suburban Areas*, was written by the Civic Trust and planning consultants Ove Arup & Partners, and funded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation. It includes case studies in North Bristol, London's Redbridge, North Tyneside and Northfield, Birmingham.

One of the suburbs biggest problems is the decline in their local shopping centres, caused by the growth of superstores and the high car ownership which allows residents to shop further from home. They begin to become shabby and shops are left vacant, destroying the neighbourhood's sense of identity and self-respect.

The loss of health, leisure and other community facilities due to centralisation on large sites and the growth of out-of-town style developments is also damaging suburbs and taking away local shops. Often bus routes which serve them are out of date, feeding into the city centre instead of catering for outwards and sideways journeys.

The report suggests local councils should spearhead early, careful, interventions to improve declining suburbs before a gentle descent turns into a rapid slide. But the last thing



A vision of suburban 1950s Britain which researchers say has died as families leave in droves. *Hulton Getty*

they need is the kind of massive redevelopment now seen as having destroyed many inner city residential areas.

The key is to secure the backing of suburbanites, in recognising their neighbourhoods have problems and in suggesting improvements. But this may

not be easy, because suburbs often lack a strong sense of community and residents may be suspicious about change.

The authors also suggest that suburbs should be given the same local government powers as village parishes, enabling them to raise modest sums

through council tax for local improvements and community development. They also advocate making National Lottery money available for community-led initiatives to halt suburban decay.

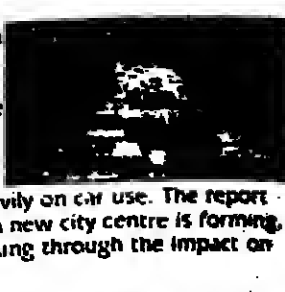
Controversially, the authors advocate converting some suburban houses into flats and

some demolition and redevelopment to build denser housing near public transport links and alongside open spaces. And it says greater variety of house types is needed to cater for the growing number of single people and couples without children.

AREAS OF DECLINE

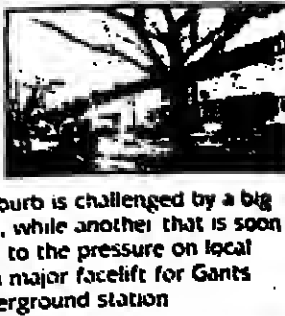
NORTH BRISTOL

The Victorian and early 20th century suburbs of north Bristol are being challenged by massive shopping, leisure and housing developments north of the city, near the M4 and M5 motorways. These growth areas rely heavily on car use. The report says that the equivalent of a new city centre is forming, without Bristol council thinking through the impact on existing suburbs.



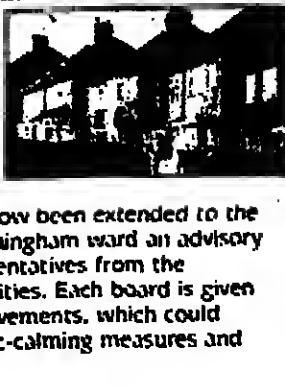
REDBRIDGE, NORTH-EAST LONDON

Parts appear to be entering a spiral of decline. As local shops and services close, residents become increasingly dependent on private cars. This worsens congestion and pollution, while isolating poorer people without cars. The suburb is challenged by a big shopping centre in Thurrock, while another that is soon to open in Dartford will add to the pressure on local shops. The report suggests a major facelift for Gants Hill, to capitalise on its Underground station.



WEST NORTHFIELD, BIRMINGHAM

The study singles out this unfashionable outer suburb near Rover's Longbridge works because of the way in which the council has tried to involve local people in improving the area. It was selected for a pilot project in 1993 which has now been extended to the rest of the city. In each Birmingham ward an advisory board is set up, with representatives from the community and local authorities. Each board is given £80,000 to spend on improvements, which could include such things as traffic-calming measures and better lighting.



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Mandelson did not drop Maxwell case

PETER MANDELSON'S former

permanent secretary has revealed that the former secretary of state did not stand aside from the Department of Trade and Industry case against Kevin Maxwell, in spite of his loss from Geoffrey Robinson, a former close business associate of the Maxwells.

Kevin Maxwell, the son of the late Robert Maxwell, is being taken to the High Court next week by the DTI to force him to co-operate with the inspectors' inquiry into an alleged fraud behind the flotation of the Mirror Group.

Sir Michael Scholar, Permanent Secretary to the Department of Trade and Industry, under Mr Mandelson's successor, Stephen Byers, disclosed in a DTI note to John Redwood, the Tory spokesman, that Mr Mandelson "did not consider it appropriate to stand aside from consideration of this issue." There is no suggestion Mr Mandelson has broken any rules but Mr Redwood, a past DTI minister, said he was "unwise" not to rule himself out of consideration of the case after borrowing £273,000 for his house from Mr Robinson, which led to his departure from the Cabinet. "I am astonished

BY COLIN BROWN

Chief Political Correspondent

Mr Mandelson did not stand aside on all of the Maxwell issues, given his close relationship with Mr Robinson and given the connections between the Maxwell empire and one of Mr Robinson's trading companies. Mr Mandelson would have had to read a lot of papers and files before the DTI proposal to intervene in the court case and he wouldn't know before embarking on that reading how far it might go. I think he was very ill-advised to agree to do that.

He was leaving himself open to reading a lot of material that could have placed him in an embarrassing position. I don't know that it did, but it could have done. The former paymaster-general worked closely with Kevin Maxwell in the family's engineering companies before Robert Maxwell's death in 1991 led to the discovery of the raids on the Mirror Group pension fund to shore up the Maxwells' Mirror empire. Mr Robinson had nothing to do with the pension fund. Kevin Maxwell was cleared of criminal deception in a civil case but is being pressed to assist in the DTI inquiry.

A DTI note, sent to Mr Redwood by Sir Michael, said: "As far as the inspection into Mirror Group newspapers is concerned, this is being carried out by independent inspectors appointed by the department in 1992: action currently rests with them. The inspectors have recently certified to the court Mr Kevin Maxwell's failure to co-operate, and the department has been joined as a party to this action at its request. Mr Mandelson did not consider it appropriate to stand aside from consideration of this issue."

Mr Redwood said: "At the very least he made a misjudgment, because the Maxwell case goes so wide and includes so many characters there was always the danger that in the paperwork he would have to read before committing the department he would have discovered things he should not have been involved in. The Permanent Secretary is implying this because he is saying Mr Mandelson did step aside from all the things to do with Mr Robinson. My judgment is that he should stand aside from the Kevin Maxwell case as well."

Mr Mandelson was not available for comment last night.

IN BRIEF

Aitken court bid withdrawn

AN APPLICATION to alter the bail conditions of Jonathan Aitken, so that it was believed he would ask for his passport, was withdrawn at the Old Bailey yesterday by his solicitors. Aitken, 56, is waiting to be sentenced for perjury in his libel action against *The Guardian* and Granada TV.

Attempted murder charges laid

A man, 27, was yesterday remanded in custody on charges of attempting to murder five people. Li Fu Kang, a kitchen worker, allegedly tried to kill Tim Cheng, 69 - the owner of a Chinese takeaway near Cheltenham - Mr Cheng's wife, their son-in-law and two grandchildren, on 1 February.

Few greens eaten on Emerald Isle

THE IRISH are continuing to ignore advice to eat up their greens, according to new figures. The consumption of fruit and vegetables in Ireland is stuck at one of the lowest levels in Europe despite campaigns based on health grounds, said Mike Gibney, professor of nutrition at Dublin's Trinity College university.

Pensioners' cancel millennium

A PENSIONERS' CLUB in Sunderland which booked a community centre in 1991 for a millennium dance, has had to cancel the planned celebration - because most of its members have died. When the group booked it had almost 70 members, but there are now only around 30.

Herbal cigarettes also harmful

SMOKERS WANTING to quit who think that puffing on a herbal cigarette may be a safe substitute are being misled. Scientists who tested one brand of a vegetable-based cigarette on five students found they produced levels of carbon monoxide high enough to damage health. Herbal cigarettes are sold as an aid to quitting smoking.

Rude awakening for late pupils

A SCHOOL has introduced morning wake-up calls for pupils who are regularly late for classes. A team of governors at London's Islington Green school are telephoning pupils' homes as part of efforts to improve standards.

48-hour Tube strike called

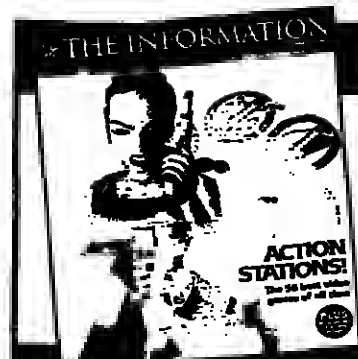
BY BARRIE CLEMENT
Labour Editor

UNION LEADERS last night called a 48-hour strike on London Underground and predicted "severe disruption" to services over a four-day period. Up to 7,000 tube employees are to walk out at 6pm on Sunday, 14 February until the same time on Tuesday, 16 February in protest at the partial privatisation of the network.

It is expected management will be able to maintain a skeleton service, but there could also be delays before and after the industrial action.

The strike call followed two hours of talks between London Underground and the RMT rail union, which represents most staff on the system. The meeting was described as "amiable", but management was unable to offer the necessary assurances about the impact of the sell-off on employees' terms and conditions. The union wants a guarantee there will be no compulsory redundancies.

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JONG AND ANNA
PAVORD ON THE
PLANTS IN PERIL

C4 admits new fake and bars film's producer

CHANNEL 4 has admitted that a documentary aired in 1997 contained scenes where film-makers posed as clients picking up rent boys.

Marie Devine, the producer of *Too Much Too Young: Chickens*, has admitted lying to Channel 4 about her programme in a case which will further undermine the credibility of television documentaries. She has been banned from working for the channel again.

Following the revelation that ITV's award-winning drug documentary *The Connection* was faked, Carlton Television was fined £2m by the Independent Television Commission. The TTC said yesterday that it was now investigating *Chickens*, but refused to comment on whether the channel may be fined.

Channel 4 is also investigating allegations against another, unnamed, documentary. There is growing speculation that senior Channel 4 executives may be forced to resign if the reports are found to be true.

Chickens, made by an independent producer, Basement Productions, was aired in 1997 as a part of a season of films by first-time directors and producers. It claimed to have se-

BY PAUL MCCANN
Media Editor

cretely filmed footage of clients approaching boys on the streets of Glasgow. In fact, the clients were members of the film crew. In one scene, the programme claimed to show a man pulling up in a family car on a road in Kelvingrove Park. The man supposedly paid an 18-year-old known as Kammy £20 for oral sex.

The programme made headlines in Scotland when it was broadcast in April 1997 because of claims by the boys that television celebrities and footballers had paid them for sex.

The faked footage was exposed by a researcher who worked on the programme, Peter McGrath, on Radio 5 Live's *Purris on TV* programme. Channel 4 initially denied the allegations when they emerged in November, but after further questioning of Ms Devine by its lawyers last month, she admitted that scenes had been faked.

The revelation comes at a bad time for the channel. It is currently in dispute with Nottingham city council which is trying to block the broadcast of a film, *Slaying Lost*, about children in its care. The council

says the film-makers encouraged a young girl to pretend to be a prostitute and that they paid children to appear in the film.

Channel 4 is standing by its producer and plans to fight the council in court.

Tim Gardam, the channel's director of programmes, issued a statement yesterday placing the blame over *Chickens* on Ms Devine.

He said: "Our procedures are robust, but no procedures are proof against deliberate and organised deception. The way in which the scenes were set up is an unacceptable breach of trust with the audience and Channel 4."

Last September, the channel was forced to halt the screening of a programme, *Daddy's Girl*, when officials discovered they had been hoaxed by a couple pretending to be father and daughter.

Because of the concerns over faked documentaries, Channel 4 has issued guidelines for producers working on investigative and observational programmes. It is also planning a series of seminars for producers and directors in which it will remind them of their ethical and regulatory responsibilities.



Too Much Too Young: Chickens (above) is under investigation by the Independent Television Commission. Marie Devine, the producer, has admitted lying to broadcasters Channel 4 about the content of the show

... AND HERE'S ONE WE MADE UP EARLIER:



The Connection

The most high-profile piece of fakery so far cost Carlton Television a £2m fine from the television regulator. The film claimed to show a drug smuggler swallowing heroin and flying into Britain. In fact, his plane tickets were bought by the director and it was claimed he swallowed nothing more harmful than mints.

Driving School

The BBC's hit docu-soap involved scenes that could only have been set up by a camera crew. These "fly-on-the-wall" scenes included one instance when the infamous Maureen Rees woke her husband at four in the morning so that he could test her on the Highway Code before her test.

Cutting Edge: Rogue Males

Channel 4's documentary about "ducking and diving" builders turned out to be largely reconstructions of the men's claims. Some of the characters who appeared to be strangers actually knew each other. Three of the characters had been in a previous documentary made by the producer.

Tale of the Tides

ITV's "Survival" slot admitted tame hyenas, porcupines and wild cats were used when it put together a documentary which was shortlisted for the 1998 Wildscreen Golden Panda awards. This led to natural history producers admitting that they occasionally use tame animals to achieve certain shots.

Ball leads Radio 1 revival as Evans slumps

ZOE BALL has led a recovery in BBC radio's fortunes, adding half a million listeners to her breakfast show on Radio One, according to official data released yesterday.

The latest figures, compiled by Radio Joint Audience Research, show that Ms Ball, who took sole possession of the breakfast slot last September, helped Radio One to lift its au-

BY RHYSS WILLIAMS

dience to 11.4m listeners and its market share to its highest level for nearly two years. The revival coincided with the continuing slump at Chris Evans' Virgin Radio, which saw its audience fall by 130,000 to 3.7m.

Radio Four also appears to have emerged from a recent trough by adding 260,000 lis-

teners to its audience. With Radios Two, Three and Five all holding firm, the BBC has narrowed the gap in audience share with commercial radio to 0.8 per cent.

Ms Ball's success appears to signal a new period of confidence at Radio One, and sets the seal on changes introduced by Andy Parfitt, who took over as controller last spring.

Chris Evans, who left the station's breakfast show two years ago, had vowed to "kill" Radio One when he took over at Virgin. Yesterday's figures show that, although he was able to boost his own breakfast-show audience of 2.2m by 2.3 per cent, he is outgunned by Ms Ball by more than two to one.

Radio Four is drawing much comfort from the figures, citing

the increase in listening hours as validation for extensive schedule changes introduced by controller James Boyle.

Although audience levels have not returned to the eight-million mark - after losing 500,000 listeners in the previous quarter - its 7.94m listeners are tuning in on average for more than 11 hours a week, the highest level for more than three

years. "We're beginning to see the first signs that the changes are working the way we want them to," said a spokeswoman.

There was also encouragement for commercial radio. Classic FM enjoyed a record quarter, increasing its audience by 10 per cent year on year to 5.1m listeners. *Leading article, Review, page 3*



Zoe Ball: breakfast show outgunning Chris Evans

Earlier he had been quoted as saying: "We produced a number of samples of our product and passed them on to Comic Relief. They liked the design and even asked for a visit to the factory we use in China. But last August they contacted us and said they had given the design to somebody else."

The company's solicitor, Valerie Toon, yesterday said no amount of compensation had been mentioned in the writ. She declined to comment further.

Comic Relief's Red Nose Day is to be held on 12 March and organisers hope that in the coming five weeks they will raise more than £30m.

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صحن من الاصل

Welsh attacks 'elitist' theatres

IRVINE WELSH, the author of *Trainspotting* and a cult novelist and playwright, has launched a stinging attack on British theatre.

He says it is elitist and moribund; its audiences are patronising and do not like young people volubly enjoying themselves; the critics are out of touch. Real kudos and glamour only impinge when a star "getting bored with film" decides to tread the boards - Ewan McGregor, Nicole Kidman, Juliette Binoche. But, warns Welsh, "do not hold your breath waiting for their next play".

An adaptation of *Trainspotting* was a success on the stage; and Welsh's latest play, *You'll Have Had Your Hole*, premiered in Leeds and had its London West End opening to a young and starry audience on Wednesday night.

But, writing in *The Stage* newspaper today, Welsh pours scorn on theatre and its audiences. He says "theatre is seen as boring, pompous and second-rate" by most practitioners and

BY DAVID LISTER
Arts News Editor

appreciators of other art forms such as cinema and music. *Trainspotting* brought new people into the theatre, he says, but this was not seen as a good thing.

"The patronising attitude displayed towards members of the audience for having the audacity to enjoy the play was turned into outright hostility when my play *You'll Have Had Your Hole* premiered in Leeds. "Sadly this was not surprising. Theatre is posher and older than most mediums - this vibe generally hits you as soon as you walk into one. The soporific content of the majority of West End plays and the cricket Test ambience of the theatre seems essentially designed to keep a younger, hipper crew away. This seems to hold for performers as well as audiences."

You'll Have Had Your Hole - a story of a kidnap of a gangster that includes anal rape, torture and drug-taking - was described by one critic as "the



A scene from Irvine Welsh's controversial play 'You'll Have Had Your Hole'

most obnoxious and contemptible" play he had seen.

However, Welsh discloses that he was happy to use negative reviews by theatre critics to publicise the play as he was "working on the premise that condemnation from the out-of-touch is as valid an endorsement as praise from the hip".

One promoter did back off, he reveals, because of the reviews.

That was not the fault of the critics, "but of the spineless, tunnel-visioned promoters and administrators who want to service an expanding market rather than expand it". The play's London premiere was at a rock concert venue, the Astoria.

Welsh goes on to say that theatre and its audiences today would not be endorsed by Shakespeare. He declares: "Shakespeare would have empathised with the larger brigade, staggering in to see *Trainspotting*. His audiences were not just old and bourgeois, they were critical, chued-up punters who would stand around drinking, and give the actors a bit of verbal if they were bored... They were part of a much more vibrant theatre scene than the moribund nonsense that passes for one now."

Accusing theatre of "easy elitism", Welsh concludes: "It might be cool if theatre could appeal to some in their teens, twenties and thirties who did not go to Cambridge. To do this, however, we are going to have to encourage stage plays that deal with troubling, contemporary material, and then allow them to be appreciated, hated and enjoyed by the people who get it."

Pupils prefer electrical to the classical

ELECTRONIC KEYBOARDS and electric guitars are taking over from classical instruments in the classroom, according to a national survey of music in schools. The study, by the opinion pollster Mori, found that the number of schools teaching "hi-tech" instruments had doubled in the past six years. More secondary schools were offering electric guitar lessons than teaching piano.

The survey, commissioned by the Performing Rights Society, found that traditional instruments like the trumpet and violin were, however, still dominant in schools. At primary level, the humble recorder was the most common instrument to be taught, while secondary schools were most likely to teach woodwind instruments like the clarinet and oboe.

Less than a third of schools said that they were meeting the demand for music teaching, in spite of the figures showing that a slightly larger proportion of pupils was learning an instrument. The number of orchestras, bands and music groups was down. Only 55 per cent of schools said they had an orchestra, down from 66 per cent six years ago. The number of wind bands and recorder groups has also slumped.

The survey comes a week after David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, doubled to £180m the funds for school music. Bob Kelley, secretary general of the Music Industries Association, said: "We should have been doing this a long time ago. I bet there are a lot of kids playing the drums or guitar in their bedrooms or in the garage, rather than being in an orchestra or a wind band at weekends."

John Dunford, general secretary of the Secondary Heads' Association, said: "There has been a revolution in school music. It is now a much more exciting subject and has much more variety. Electronic instruments have really contributed to music in schools, because they are very good for bringing in children who are not brilliantly musical." But it

BY BEN RUSSELL
Education Correspondent

is still an area of huge concern. There is not enough money for music and it has been one of the big casualties of the past 10 years. Good music is absolutely vital to a school. All the best schools have very active music departments."

The survey, commissioned by the Performing Rights Society

TOP 13 Instruments taught in classrooms	
Primary schools	
Recorder	62%
Strings	62%
Woodwind	64%
Brass	52%
Acoustic guitar	37%
Piano	37%
Voice	35%
Electronic keyboards	31%
Percussion	30%
Saxophone	27%
Electric guitar	10%
Ethnic instruments	4%
Harp	3%
Secondary schools	
Woodwind	91%
Brass	87%
Strings	85%
Acoustic guitar	76%
Percussion	76%
Saxophone	74%
Electric guitar	61%
Piano	53%
Electronic keyboards	52%
Voice	46%
Recorder	32%
Ethnic instruments	9%
Harp	7%

Catherine Cookson the bestseller of the decade



Cookson: Her romantic fiction sells - and sells

DAME CATHERINE Cookson, who died last year, was confirmed as Britain's best-selling author of the decade in a list published yesterday.

It was no surprise when the perennial favourite led the top 10 with 14.5 million sales in the past 10 years. Dame Catherine's novels have sold more than 100 million copies worldwide. Her first novel, *Kate Hamington*, was published in 1950.

At number two was the less well-known name of Dr David Hessayon, whose gardening

BY JACKIE BURDON

guides, such as *The House Plant Expert*, have sold 10.5 million copies in the past decade alone. Dr Hessayon was chief scientist at a gardening firm when he started writing.

In the 40 years since his first book, *Be Your Own Gardening Expert* appeared, Dr Hessayon has sold 40 million books but shuns publicity.

The list was compiled to mark the 10th anniversary of the British Book Awards.



Pratchett: Ten million science fiction books sold

TOP 10 OF THE NINETIES

Author	Genre	Sales
1 Catherine Cookson	romantic fiction	14.5m
2 David Hessayon	gardening	10.5m
3 Terry Pratchett	science fiction	10m
4 Danielle Steel	romantic fiction	8m+
5 Delia Smith	cookery	8m
6 Stephen King	modern horror	7.5m
7 John Grisham	legal thriller	7m+
8 Dick Francis	thriller	7m
9 Maeve Binchy	fiction	5.5m
10 Wilbur Smith	adventure fiction	5m

Source: Bookwatch

Yorkshire Bank Base Rate

Yorkshire Bank announces that with effect from start of business on 5th February 1999 its Base Rate is decreasing from 6.00% to 5.50%.

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Tory swine uncover the great porkballs carve-up scandal

WE'VE HAD a Cod War and a Beef War and now, it seems, Tory backbenchers are determined to try a new recipe for Eurosceptic belligerence. They want a Pork War and yesterday, during agriculture questions, they indignantly pestered the Agriculture Minister, Nick Brown, to start one at the earliest opportunity. Why did he not ban the imports of pigmeat (it sounds so much less appetising put like that, doesn't it?) on the grounds that the animals had been raised in inhumane conditions? Typical of the pork hawks was the Tory MP Desmond Swayne, reminding Mr Brown that he had existing powers to repel Italian salami and German speck from our

borders and urging him to do so at once. Did he not know that producers in this country "are being undercut" because foreign producers are less tender and solicitous of their swine?

In truth one of the reasons they're being undercut is because their pigs are not – a detail conveyed in the Agriculture Committee's recent report on the UK Pig Industry, a scintillating document which I can recommend to readers as perfect beach reading if they happen to be taking a sunshine break in the near future. The report points out that castration is far more widely employed on the Continent, which allows pigs to reach a much heavier

weight without developing what is known as "boar taint". As a result the "finished" pig (meat production generates almost as many coy euphemisms as war) is cheaper, kilogram for kilogram, than the British product.

If you were a pig, then, the issue would be clear: impose a ban now. I can almost hear the songs already: "There'll be big boars over the white cliffs of Dover", "We'll meet again", "It's a lovin' way to Piccadilly".

Tory members, of course, were less concerned for the welfare of Euro-pigs than the fiscal health of their pig-farming constituents, not to mention their own standing as a plausible opposition. They were

THE SKETCH



THOMAS
SUTCLIFFE

rooting in the churned-up field of food production for some juicy morsels of righteous indignation and this certainly seemed promising.

Even Dale Campbell-Savours stood up on the Labour benches to clarify the matter. "Why shouldn't we on principle block the importing of pig meat if it is inhumanely raised?" he asked, with a brevity that is normally synonymous with hostile intent.

Following the Tory leader William Hague's lead yesterday, there was also a fair amount of polding and snuffing around the issue of genetically modified food and the proposed levy on food shops to fund the new Food Standards Agency.

But the big issue of the day was the continuing ban on beef on the bone. This has not been handled terribly well by Mr Brown's office, from which tantalising smells of

roast sirloin have been wafting in recent weeks, fanned to eager nostrils by unseen hands. Then, once farmers and restaurateurs were salivating at the prospect, Mr Brown threw open the door and announced that the beef was off, and that the Chief Medical Officer had declined to give it a clean bill of health.

Mr Brown defended his decision perfectly well yesterday, sidestepping the Tories' advocacy of individual choice (you don't get to choose what goes into restaurant gravy, particularly if you're rude to the waiters) as well as emphasising the clarity of his scientific advice. But he ignored the question-mark over the clumsy spinning of this

move, like a man who had accidentally trodden in a cowpat and was trying to pretend that the smell had nothing to do with him.

Voters who are left feeling dietetically nervous by this curious vacillation were offered some free advice by the Labour MP David Winnick, who, with a bean-fed plety, asked the Minister to tell him whether there were any vegetarian foods that caused the same difficulties as the House had just been discussing ("Peanuts!" shouted some of his colleagues helpfully).

Mr Winnick should simply have stood up and said "Meat is murder". – Mr Brown is a carnivore but yesterday he might well have agreed.

BSE hazard 'still largely unknown'

FEARS OVER the extent of the bovine spongiform encephalitis (BSE) crisis escalated yesterday when MPs were told that there were still no clear findings about the eventual extent of the disease.

A hard-hitting report by the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) is unable to provide any firm conclusions from the present cases of new-variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (nv-CJD), the human form of BSE, because the disease has an incubation period of years, not months.

The warning from the CMO, Professor Liam Donaldson, came as Nick Brown, the Minister of Agriculture, announced that the beef-on-the-bone ban would remain for at least another six months because there was still "a small risk" for public health.

Dismissing Tory attacks on his decision, Mr Brown said 35 people so far had died of nv-CJD and it was a "statistical certainty" that more would follow. "It is absolutely right to err, if err we do, on the precautionary side."

BEEF BAN
BY SARAH SCHAEFER
Political Reporter

Should the incidence of confirmed cases of nv-CJD in people begin to increase substantially this would be a source of grave concern and would signal, in part, a higher degree of sensitivity in the human population to BSE infected cattle tissue than has been apparent hitherto," he said.

In a statement to MPs – confirming a report in *The Independent* last week – Mr Brown said the CMO's report warned there was a possibility of maternal transmission, where BSE could be passed from cow to calf, and the "very small but still present risk that could cause infectivity in the bone element and the material clinging to the bone".

But Tim Yeo, the Tory spokesman on agriculture, accused Mr Brown of "failing" his "first real test" of leadership after "all the hints he had been dropping in the last few weeks

about the ban". "There will be huge disappointment for farmers and consumers who are being denied the chance to choose their own menus," he said.

Mr Brown insisted it would be "absolutely wrong" to set aside the scientific and medical advice given by the CMO to make a "political decision" on such a serious issue. "By far and away the worst thing I could do for the beef market is to create some new uncertainty as to whether the product is safe. The need to protect public health and retain confidence in beef and beef products remains the Government's paramount concern," he said.

Mr Brown promised to review the ban in August.

Ben Gill, president of the National Farmers' Union, said Mr Brown had defied common sense. "The Government appears to have taken an ultra, ultra-precautionary approach, but to the ordinary person in the street it must seem nonsensical that the beef-on-the-bone ban should remain in place."

THE GOVERNMENT was accused of complacency over benefit fraud yesterday after a Commons committee published figures claiming that more than one in three claims was potentially inaccurate. The Social Security Select Committee defied ministers by issuing the results of an official

SOCIAL SECURITY
BY PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

poll study into the £2.5bn family credit system.

Alistair Darling, the Secretary of State for Social Security, had warned the committee not to publish the results as they were not statistically valid and were never intended to be made public.

However, the committee said it was acting to promote greater government openness and better-informed debate and attacked the Benefits Agency

for failing to use the study to carry out a wider inquiry.

The nationwide study found that 123 out of 326 "outcomes" of case reviews involved possible or actual fraud.

"We remain concerned that these indicative findings did not lead on to a full review, which could have analysed the probable extent of each type of fraud," the committee's report into the affair said. "It is a matter for regret that the Benefits Agency did not proceed to a full review of family credit based on a sample large enough to give robust results."

The MPs said that the figures were important to establish a baseline of fraud levels for Parliament to judge the Government's plans to introduce working families' tax credit. Iain Duncan Smith, the Conservative's social security spokesman, said: "Labour promised to be tough on benefit fraud, but this report shows their utter complacency."

"The fact that the Government delayed publication of this report proves their failure to deal with fraud. The situation is bad enough, but things will get even worse with the intro-

duction of the working families' tax credits, which will encourage greater fraud as it places more emphasis on speed of payment at the expense of careful checking." The Liberal Democrat's spokesman on tax credits, Steven Webb, said the report showed the Government was "ducking the issue on fraud". "If the Government really did want to stop fraud, it would continue this review and use the results to ensure that the tax credit was watertight and built to prevent rather than encourage fraud," he said.



William and Fionn Hague launched National Marriage Week, with John and Heather Hookway (married last July), on the steps of Westminster Registry Office yesterday
Peter Macdiarmid

MPs defy Darling over benefit fraud

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Import figures

RESEARCH SCIENTISTS imported 2,362 primates from around the world into Britain last year, Alan Meale, the Environment minister, said. He told MPs that 2,186 were crab-eating macaques from Mauritius, Philippines and Israel, some 160 rhesus macaques were imported from China, while six squirrel monkeys were imported from the US.

Wrong testing

TWO TEST companies growing genetically-modified crops have broken regulations governing their development, Michael Meacher, the Environment minister disclosed. He said the breaches were by Nickersons Biochem at Holton-le-Moor in Lincolnshire and the Scottish Crop Research Institute at two sites in Invergowrie, Dundee.

Surplus places

SCHOOLS IN England had more than 761,000 surplus places in January last year, representing 10 per cent of the total capacity of 7.6 million places, Charles Clarke, the Education minister said.

Tobacco cash

ARTS GROUPS receive more than £1m a year in sponsorship from tobacco companies, Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary said.

Today's agenda

Neither House is sitting.

Brown's £20,000 bill for private flights under fire

THE ROW over ministerial travel deepened yesterday when the Tories stepped up pressure on Gordon Brown to answer questions about his own arrangements.

John Maples, shadow defence secretary, said he had refused to explain why he used helicopters and private jets on his September 1997 trip to Mauritius and Bangkok at a cost of £20,000. "How much more is there that we do not know? Taxpayers have a right to be told what the Chancellor is spending their money on."

Margaret Beckett, the Commons Leader, accused Tory MPs of waging a "phony campaign" and asking "nit-picking, mischief-making and costly questions".

The Prime Minister's official spokesman has previously indicated the Government would refuse to answer questions on travel arrangements.

'More police does not equal less crime'

PAUL BOATENG, the Home Office Minister, accused the Opposition of playing "party political games" after Tories and Liberal Democrats said the Government was running down the police service.

He said increasing police numbers did not automatically cut the crime rate and it was time the debate moved on from "sterile and simplistic" arguments over the number of officers on the beat. Opening a Commons debate on police funding, Mr Boateng said an Audit Commission report had concluded that success in solving crime did not depend solely

on the number of officers available.

"An even more telling finding from the commission was that some forces with the biggest reduction in numbers of police officers have also recorded some of the largest increases in the percentage of crimes detected."

The minister admitted the public felt reassured by the number of police on the streets, but stressed that new technology meant that there were better ways to use public funds.

POLICE FUNDING
BY PAUL WAUGH

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The minister admitted the public felt reassured by the number of police on the streets, but stressed that new technology meant that there were better ways to use public funds.

THE HOUSE



Peer calls for mosque inquiry

THERE SHOULD be an investigation into claims that a "terrorist cell" was being run within the Muslim mosque at Finsbury Park, London, said Lord Rowallan, a Tory peer. He demanded the extradition of Abu Hamza, leader of the Supporters of Shariah group.

Prescott warns councils on tax

JOHN PRESCOTT, the Deputy Prime Minister, warned council leaders not to impose massive council tax hikes in April, insisting the 1999 to 2000 settlement for English local authorities was "the most generous for seven years". Government grant support will rise £2bn to £39.5bn, while council spending will increase to £50.6bn. An extra £30m will ensure that authorities with responsibilities for education get a grant rise of at least 1.5 per cent.

Lords 'should list interests'

THE REGISTER of Peers' Interests should be made mandatory after the failure of Lord Hoffmann, a law lord, to disclose his links with a charity connected with Amnesty International in a hearing on the General Pinochet extradition case, Lord Marnesford, a Tory peer, demanded.

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Bishop challenges 'Attila the Nun' over church bill



The Very Rev Miriam Byrne, who has been described as 'a woman doing a man's job' Dundee Press Agency

BY STEPHEN GOODWIN
Scotland Correspondent

SCOTLAND'S MOST senior female cleric will be questioned by a bishop today after allegations of financial mismanagement of church funds.

The future of the Very Rev Miriam Byrne, who has been dubbed 'Attila the Nun' by parishioners for her 'Thatcher-like' approach, is in doubt after a troubled start to her tenure as provost of St Paul's Cathedral in Dundee, which started only last September.

Ms Byrne, the first woman in Britain to take charge of an Anglican cathedral, is at the centre of complaints about a £19,000 overspend on improvements at the rectory, including the unauthorised installation of an Aga cooker.

The twice-married ex-nun has been the subject of a slew of complaints since she replaced Dr Michael Bunce, who resigned after being convicted of embezzling £44,000 from a charity for the unemployed.

The Right Rev Neville Chamberlain, the Bishop of Brechin, said the affair was "undermining Christianity".



St Paul's, Dundee, where attendance has fallen

Ms Byrne, 52, has a colourful past. She spent seven years as a nun with the Vocation Sisters, though never took her final vows and left to marry a former monk. Divorced after 18 years, she next married a uni-

versity librarian and gradually returned to religious life. This time not as a Roman Catholic but as an Anglican in the Scottish Episcopal Church.

As soon as he heard of Ms Byrne's appointment, George Greig, the cathedral's honorary chaplain for 13 years, resigned and a dozen members of the congregation departed. Others refused to take communion if Ms Byrne was officiating.

In the unenviable role of arbitrator in the matter is the Right Rev Bruce Cameron, the Bishop of Aberdeen and Orkney, who will hear details of the wrangle in a private session.

Although details are not being released, he will almost certainly be told of Ms Byrne's abrasive manner. One parishioner described her as "a woman doing a man's job" who over-compensated by throwing her weight around. "She is dictatorial and does not care what people think," he said, citing changes to services.

Last November, all 12 members of the vestry committee wrote to their bishop pleading for Ms Byrne's resig-

nation on grounds of pastoral breakdown. They claimed that congregations at the cathedral have fallen from more than 100 to as low as 30 - though Ms Byrne's supporters and Bishop Chamberlain dispute this figure.

At the end of last year it emerged that Ms Byrne had spent £28,000 doing up the Georgian rectory, despite being given a budget of only £18,000 by the vestry. Then came another bill, mere days before today's hearing, of £9,000 for "additional renovations".

Richard Southern, a vestry committee member, said the cathedral was in deep financial trouble as a result of Ms Byrne's spending. "The cathedral's deficit was just over £9,500 last month," he said.

"When you have only 40 or 50 people going to church, the average Sunday takings are only £150, which is less than most small parish churches in Dundee. The place will go into bankruptcy."

Ms Byrne claims the whole affair is *sub judice* and was not replying to telephone calls yesterday. Her supporters were also keeping silent.

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'Useless' medicine costs UK millions

THE NATIONAL Health Service is spending hundreds of millions on procedures that may cause more harm than good, while denying treatment to cancer patients whose lives could be prolonged, according to two studies published in the *British Medical Journal*.

The studies suggest that if removing varicose veins and screening for cervical cancer in older women were withdrawn and the money saved spent elsewhere more patients would benefit.

One option would be to increase spending on cancer treatment, which is half that in France and one-third that in Germany. Yesterday, cancer experts called for a new "human rights" movement to ensure all cancer patients get access to the treatment they need.

Death rates from cancer in the United Kingdom are higher than in many European countries and are directly linked to spending, according to the World Health Organisation. Five-year survival rates for ovarian cancer are 25 per cent in the UK and 40 per cent in France.

The two BMJ studies demonstrate the growing pressure on the NHS to ensure the maximum value from its £40bn budget. Although 50,000 people a year seek surgery for unsightly varicose veins there is no evidence that it improves symptoms of heavy, swollen or aching legs, according to researchers at the University of Edinburgh.

From a study of 1,500 people, they found the symptoms were just as likely to occur in those who did not have varicose veins, and people with varicose veins were no more likely to suffer from the symptoms than those with unaffected veins. Removing varicose veins had no effect.

The second study, from University College London, sug-

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
AND LOUISE JURY

gests that the NHS may also be wasting money screening older women for cervical cancer in whom the disease is rare. They say that if regular NHS screening were to stop at 50 instead of the current 64, there could be an extra 600 cases of cancer each year but a saving of one-quarter of the £132m annual cost of the programme in England.

However, although increasing numbers of health authorities are reluctant to pay for varicose-vein surgery, the ethical and political consequences of trying to restrict cervical screening make change there unlikely. A spokeswoman for the National Cervical Screening Service said research was underway to investigate the benefits of screening for older women.

Figures cited at the International Congress on Anti-Cancer Treatment in Paris yesterday show wide variations in cancer survival in different countries. Patients diagnosed with colon cancer have a 36 per cent chance of surviving five years in the UK, 51 per cent in Switzerland and 60 per cent in the United States. Professor Herbert Pinedo, head of medical oncology at Vrije University in Holland, said: "The price of anti-cancer treatments is too often a target for cost-saving measures."

NHS screening programmes for breast and cervical cancer and fetal abnormalities should be abandoned and patients who want regular checks should pay, a consultant obstetrician at Leeds General Infirmary suggested yesterday. Mr Jim Thornton said in a report for the right-wing Institute of Economic Affairs, that the costs of nationwide programmes were not justified by the numbers of people saved.

Legal aid claims not being verified

A QUARTER of legal aid applications are not backed up by evidence that claimants are entitled to the money, the government's finance watchdog reports today.

For the eighth year the Lord Chancellor's and Law Officers' departments have failed their annual health check because of discrepancies in the £597m bill for criminal legal aid. The National Audit Office (NAO) said that 26 per cent of applicants claiming legal support failed to provide the necessary paperwork. In half those cases legal aid was granted without evidence of entitlement.

NAO staff who visited mag-

BY FRAN ABRAMS
Westminster Correspondent

istrates' courts found more errors than revealed by earlier internal checks. Civil servants had found that just 8 per cent of applicants failed to provide proof that they were entitled to legal aid.

The audit office staff found errors in calculation of contributions in four out of 10 cases.

Magistrates' courts are responsible for granting legal aid, but the Lord Chancellor's Department is monitoring it. It is also responsible for policy and legislation affecting legal aid and for funding the scheme.

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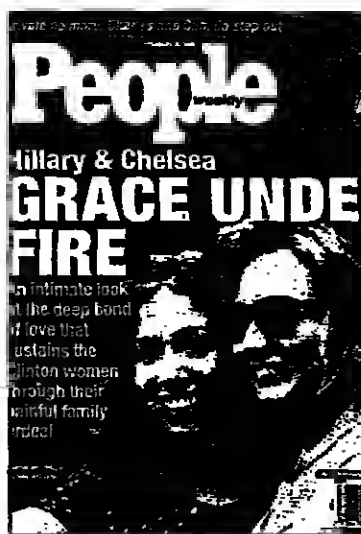
Clinton's fail to prevent breach of Chelsea's privacy

BY MARY DEJEVSKY
in Washington

WHATEVER BILL and Hillary Clinton's differences, they have been constantly united on one priority: the protection of their only daughter's privacy. So when they discovered that *People* magazine, one of the so-called "supermarket tabloids", was planning a cover story on Chelsea and the mother-daughter relationship, they did their best to discourage it.

But late on Wednesday, they had to admit defeat, and in a move without precedent in their six years at the White House, the First Couple issued a pained statement of protest against a specific publication. "Unfortunately, despite personal appeals with respect to her privacy and her security from her parents, *People* has chosen to run the story," it said. "We deeply regret and are profoundly saddened" by the decision.

People, owned by Time Warner, was unapologetic. Its managing editor, Carol Wallace, said: "Over the years we've written about the Clinton



Chelsea and Hillary, the cover story of the latest *People* magazine; Chelsea is taking an increasingly public role, which editors believe makes her 'fair game'

family in good times and bad. Chelsea is nearly 19 years old and a poised young adult. We feel that because she is an eyewitness to the family drama and historical events unfolding around her, she is a valid journalistic subject."

For Hillary, but especially for Bill Clinton, the end of the US

media's respect for Chelsea's privacy may be the cruellest consequence of the Lewinsky affair. Chelsea is a second-year medical student at Stanford University in California and her closeness to both parents has long been evident, as has their concern to shield her from the limelight. During

the 1996 presidential campaign, they rejected her pleas to join the campaign trail, but have gradually loosened the leash, relying on what those familiar with the British tabloids would find the remarkable restraint of the US media. Parental calls for her to be left alone when she went to college

18 months ago were largely heeded, with only the odd diary note about a boyfriend.

Chelsea, meanwhile, regularly accompanied her parents on foreign trips, most recently to China. Last year, she also travelled with Hillary on her African tour, a trip that marked a debut of a kind into public life.

Last year, however, with the rumours, and finally the confirmation, of the President's affair with a woman only five years older than his daughter, the media's restraint started to break down. The poignant pictures of Chelsea, walking hand-in-hand between her parents as they crossed the White House

lawn to the presidential helicopter the day after her father's confession, were taken as symbolic - Chelsea was holding the family together.

Such public appearances and her spontaneous move to gladhand the crowd at Martha's Vineyard when the unhappy First Couple arrived

on holiday last August, gave the tabloids the opening they wanted. Not only was Chelsea now legally an adult, but she was taking a political role. She was fair game.

A barrier was broken by the tabloid *New York Post*, which printed a story in autumn about Chelsea breaking up with her "first serious boyfriend" and seeking counselling as a consequence of her father's troubles. The broadsheet papers and television continued to steer away, and appeared embarrassed rather than liberated by *People*'s decision to publish, burying reports of the Clintons' protest downpage.

The effect of the Lewinsky scandal on Chelsea has been hinted at by the President's half-brother, Roger, who said she had been "deeply shaken" by the scandal, "like Hillary".

The Senate reconvened yesterday for what is widely expected to be the last stretch of the impeachment trial. With 12 February set as the provisional date for the final vote, leaders on both sides insisted their prime objective was to "bring this trial to an end".

US to be sued for Sudan bombing

THE UNITED States may be forced to acknowledge that it mistakenly attacked a factory in Sudan with cruise missiles last year, after the threat of legal proceedings by the plant's Sudanese owner.

The US struck a pharmaceutical plant in the Sudanese capital, Khartoum, and a camp in Afghanistan last August after bombs at its embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. It said that both targets had links to the man they blamed for bombs, the renegade Saudi millionaire Osama bin Laden, and that the plant in Khartoum manufactured chemical weapons.

The strikes caused enormous controversy since they came on the day that Monica Lewinsky gave evidence on her affair with President Bill Clinton, raising accusations that the White House was seeking to distract attention.

The owner of the plant, Saleh Idris, has asked the US to apologise, to unfreeze his assets and to compensate him for damage to the factory, which he says was a legitimate pharmaceutical factory.

"We'd like to settle this peacefully," said John Scanlon, who represents Mr Idris in New York. But a legal action was under preparation, he said.

Mr Idris has retained the Washington law firm of Akin Gump Strauss Hauer Feld, the same firm which employs Vernon Jordan, who gave evidence in defence of Mr Clinton in the Senate impeachment trial. A legal case would be almost unprecedented, and could have major implications for Mr Clinton and for US foreign policy.

Mr Idris, who is also an adviser to Saudi Arabia's largest bank, has retained Kroll Associates, the world's leading firm of private investigators, to examine the evidence. Mr Scanlon said it proves that there was no chemical weapons plant in the factory, that it had never belonged to Mr bin Laden and that there were no links between Mr Idris and Mr bin Laden or the Iraqi government.

The US said it found traces of chemicals that could be used to make VX nerve gas at the

BY ANDREW MARSHALL
in Washington

site. Mr Idris's representatives also conducted their own laboratory tests, said Mr Scanlon.

The US has never provided evidence of links between Mr bin Laden and Mr Idris.

Mr Idris's representatives presented their case this week to the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the US House of Representatives, said a US government source. Mr Scanlon said they also asked to meet representatives from other US government agencies, but had been rebuffed.

Mr Idris has millions of dollars of assets in Bank of America in London, which have been frozen by the US Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control on instructions from the White House. Bank of America would not comment on Mr Saleh but said that their operations in London were subject to US jurisdiction. The US Treasury also refused to comment on Mr Idris, but said that some asset freezes apply outside America to US financial institutions.

The British government has fewer concerns about Mr Idris than Washington. He is banned from entering the US, but travels freely to and from London.

The British ambassador to Sudan had also visited the pharmaceutical plant, and British sources have been highly sceptical of the US attack.

At the time of last year's strike, there was an argument within the Administration as to whether the Sudanese plant was a legitimate target. The US said after the strike that the facility was a Sudanese government factory, but corrected this when it became clear that it had belonged to Mr Idris since April. One US government source told *The Independent* that it was a case of "right country, wrong building".

The US government was itself divided over the attacks. The factory was reportedly added to the target list at the last moment. America had wanted to hit the building for some time, and the embassy bombings provided a rationale, said the government official.

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The bombed pharmaceutical factory in Khartoum AP

King Hussein flies home as his health deteriorates fast

BY PATRICK COCKBURN

KING HUSSEIN was returning home to Jordan in critical condition last night after the failure of a second bone-marrow transplant operation in the United States on Tuesday.

A statement issued by his private physician said the 63-year-old monarch's condition "has become critical due to the failure of the function of internal organs". The King has been receiving treatment at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, since 25 January for a recurrence of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma cancer.

One Jordanian official said King Hussein would be taken on arrival at the airport this morning to an Amman military hospital, known as the King Hussein Medical City, for close medical supervision because his health was deteriorating. "His body has apparently refused the bone cells taken from his family members and transplanted into his body," the official said.

King Hussein had returned for more treatment in the US last month only hours after naming his eldest son, 37-year-old Prince Abdullah, as his successor. Abdullah replaced King Hussein's brother, Hassan, 51, who had been crown prince for 34 years.

It emerged yesterday that at the height of the battle for the succession, Prince Hassan's telephone calls were being bugged by the Jordanian security services.

The bugging was said to have started four months ago, when King Hussein was undergoing chemotherapy in America. Information from the telephone tapping was passed to the King.

In late January, when he returned to Jordan and switched the succession, the King accused Prince Hassan of meddling with senior appointments in the army and spreading smears against Queen Noor and her children.

The allegation that Prince Hassan's telephone calls were being intercepted while he was nominally ruling Jordan suggests that the rift within the



Jordan's former Crown Prince Hassan, left, and King Hussein, who resented his brother's attempts to act like a monarch. Jamal Nasrallah

royal family went far deeper than was hitherto realised. It would also demonstrate how far he was from controlling the real levers of power.

Samir Battikh, the head of Jordanian intelligence, paid several visits to the Mayo Clinic to report on Prince Hassan's behaviour as regent during the King's stay there.

A sign of the anger felt by Prince Hassan over his dismissal as heir to the throne has come in a report in the *al-Bayan* newspaper that he plans to go into permanent exile in London.

It says that when the King told him of his decision he de-

clared: "Shoot me if you think that I was unfaithful."

King Hussein clearly felt resentment at what he saw as Prince Hassan's attempts to act like a king before his own death. In a letter altering the succession, the monarch wrote bitterly of how his "small family was offended by slanders and falsehoods, and I refer here to my wife and children".

The King was particularly concerned about "the politicisation and fragmentation of the army" under Prince Hassan. He complained: "What made me sleepless for the first time in my life is that I was asking myself, 'Why is there insis-

tence on change in the army?'"

The King cancelled orders for the retirement of some officers and the promotion of others.

In fact Prince Hassan's motives for trying to secure his position with the army may have been rather different. One Jordanian observer said: "Towards the end of last year, the White House told two Israeli journalists the King was dying. Hassan believed what they wrote."

The former crown prince apparently discounted more optimistic reports of his brother's health and decided to make prudent changes in the military establishment in order to secure a smooth succession.

Prince Hassan may not have realised how far his relations with his brother had deteriorated. Intelligent, industrious and highly educated, he is also a humorous man. Knowing that it was conventional wisdom among Jordanians that he had no support among the army, the people, the Jordanian tribes or the Palestinians, who make up more than half the population, he joked: "It seems the only people who like me are Filipina maids and Armenian hairdressers."

A year ago, when there were serious riots in Ma'an, in southern Jordan, while Prince Hassan was out of the country, he

is reported to have told the King with a laugh: "I leave the country for three days and look what happens."

He is once said to have described the King to his face as "your royal irrelevancy".

A Jordanian analyst said: "The King was sensitive to the suggestion that he was frothy, while his brother was substance."

Jokes which might have been acceptable to the King when he was in good health and in Amman, might have looked more menacing when related second hand to a sick man undergoing treatment thousands of miles away.

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Civil war fears in East Timor

CARLOS BELO, the Roman Catholic bishop who won the Nobel Peace Prize for his work in East Timor, said yesterday that the occupied territory should wait at least 10 years for a vote on its independence from Indonesia, amid growing anxieties about civil war.

"Only through a plebiscite can we know who is for Indonesia, and who is against Indonesia," Monsignor Belo said at his home in the East Timorese capital, Dili. He said that a period of between 10 and 15 years would be necessary for a reconciliation between pro-independence guerrillas and armed militias who support full integration with Indonesia.

In the past few weeks, the latter have launched violent attacks on villages, creating thousands of refugees.

Despite continuing denials by the government of Jakarta and senior army officers, the bishop said that the militias were being armed by the Indonesian military. "There are some civilians who have arms

BY RICHARD LLOYD PARRY

to threaten the people," he said. "Naturally, it is coming from the army. It is better to fight with diplomacy, with intelligence, with discussion, rather than fighting with guns."

East Timor was invaded by Indonesia in 1975, and annexed a year later in a brutal occupation which has cost up to 200,000 lives. Jakarta had always resisted international calls for its withdrawal until an unexpected announcement last week, when the government said it might give the territory its independence next year.

The announcement has raised fears of a repeat of 1975 when the territory's Portuguese administration suddenly quit their colony after a coup in the Portuguese capital, Lisbon. Pro-Jakarta groups, funded and armed by Indonesia, fought skirmishes with the majority pro-independence forces. The fighting was used as a pretext for the invasion by Indonesia.

Getty to give 'stolen' art back to Italy

THE J PAUL Getty Museum in Los Angeles has volunteered to return three artworks to Italy after finding evidence that the pieces - a Greek vase, a torso of Mithras and a Roman bust - were probably stolen.

The gesture by one of the richest private collections, which has suffered accusations of improper acquisition practices for many years, appeared to be part of a strategy by the Getty to put itself above reproach in the art market.

Although the museum has never been found guilty of knowingly acquiring stolen or illegally exported property, the extent of its buying power has raised questions about the authenticity and provenance of its collections.

The most valuable of the

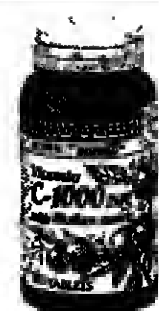
BY ANDREW GUMBEL in Los Angeles

three pieces is a terracotta kylix, or vase, by the Greek potter Euphronios, which reached the Getty in pieces from 1983 to 1990 from a variety of private collections. Italian experts alleged that the piece was illegally excavated from the Etruscan site of Cerveteri, north of Rome. Marion True, the Getty's curator of antiquities, said she had been unconvinced by evidence from Italian government investigators, but came to the conclusion after her own investigation.

The 2nd-century marble torso of Mithras has been traced to the Italian Giustiniani family. The Roman head, bought in New York, appears to have come from an excavation at Venus.

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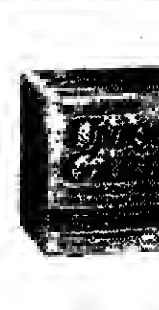


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Can Mir turn night into day?

BY CHARLES ARTHUR
Technology Editor

ASTRONOMERS WATCHED the skies anxiously yesterday as cosmonauts on board the Russian Mir space station tried, but failed, to unveil a mirror 25m (83ft) across to reflect sunlight on to darkened parts of the Earth.

An early hitch saw the mirror catch on a radio aerial. The plastic parasol, covered with aluminium, began to unfold in the early afternoon, but then jammed again, stopping the test for the day.

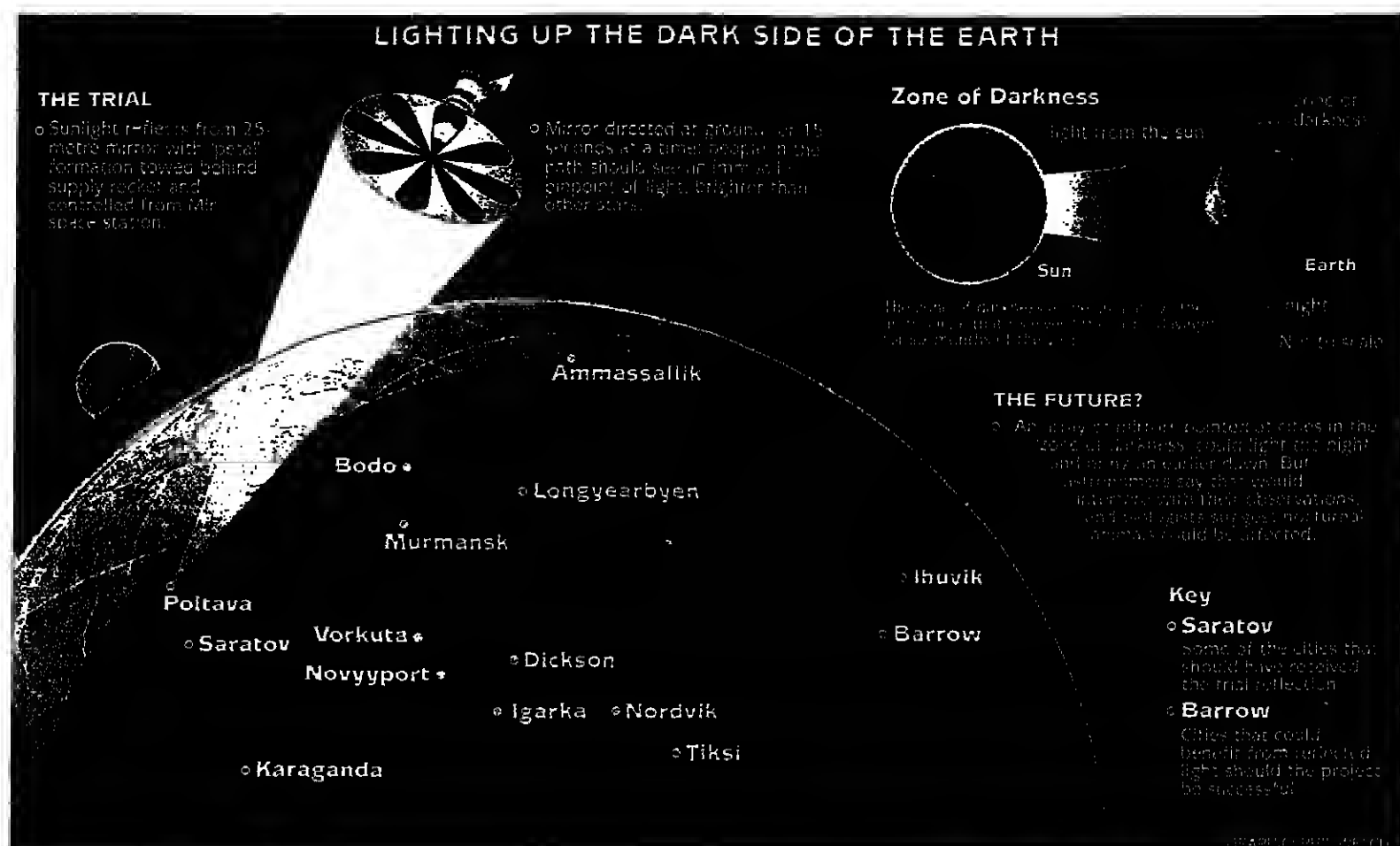
The mirror is designed to work like an artificial moon. It was meant to reflect a beam of sunlight about 8km (5 miles) across on to several regions in Russia and other former Soviet republics before reaching Germany and the Czech Republic. It would not have been visible in Britain.

It is designed as a prototype for much larger models that could illuminate northern parts of the Earth.

Russian Mission Control said the experiment might go ahead today if they could resolve the problem.

The Space Regatta Consortium, principally backed by the Russian company Energia, has funded the experiment. The designers suggested that a series of mirrors - or one giant mirror - could harness sunlight to overcome darkness and boost agriculture by lengthening the day.

However, that poses the huge problem of controlling the mirrors' angle while the Earth



and the Sun are moving. Tiny variations would mean huge differences in what part of Earth was illuminated.

The experiment had triggered an avalanche of dramatic reports, many of which described the mirror as a "second moon" that would

glare from the skies. However a spokeswoman called the idea "ridiculous rumours".

Astronomers were less happy. "This could get so bright that it's impossible to miss," said John Kelly Beatty, senior editor at Sky & Telescope magazine.

Astronomers believe that such bright light will seriously impede observations from ground-based telescopes.

David Williams, president of the Royal Astronomical Society in Britain and professor of astronomy at University College London, said: "A lot

of money - taxpayers' money - has been spent on building new telescopes in remote locations. This could ruin all those plans."

Astronomers fear that the Russians financing the experiment will ignore their objections and push ahead with

Joking lessons for Germans

EUROPEAN TIMES
MUNICH

IT LOOKS like any other seminar: the tables arranged at three sides of the rectangle, the instructor waving his arms in front of diagrams on a screen. The participants, 19 men and women predominantly in middle age, have each paid DM500 (£200) to better themselves on this one-day intensive course at a Munich hotel. By 5pm tonight, they hope to leave the room as different persons, ready for the harshness of German life.

It is 9am, and the instructor, Matthias Pöhm, begins with a challenge. "The new government has decreed that every German family must consume 20mg of hashish a week," he says. "Can you think of a suitable question to ask the government spokesman? For instance: why only 20mg?"

The pupils scratch their heads. "Will the cost be tax deductible?" asks the lady who during the week works as a tax inspector. "Can those allergic to hash take cocaine instead?" ventures a salesman.

The ice has been broken, the class is on a roll, everyone laughs. On to the next exercise. The participants are asked to write down the name of the person they hate most, catalogue two of their worst flaws, and construct a line of attack. This, after all, is a self-defence class. However, the weapons are exclusively verbal. The students are here to be killed out with an armoury of one-liners, cheeky ripostes, biting sarcasm and devastating put-downs.

In a society where charm is for wimps, apology a sign of weakness and bullying an accepted form of behaviour, aggressive verbal skills are often deployed in everyday skirmishes. But doing it with wit - now that is ground-breaking stuff. Mr Pöhm, one of five such teachers in the German-speaking world, knows he is playing with fire, and has been accused of dragging his people too fast into the humour equivalent of the nuclear age. "I am merely giving my students a weapon," he says. "How they use it is their business."

Mr Pöhm, a 39-year-old former software engineer who changed to this field because he found communicating with machines somewhat limiting, is a man on a mission. "Perhaps there is not enough laughter in Germany," he says. "It is against that, that I'm fighting."

Sometimes, it is an uphill

struggle. The first attempt at irony falls flat, as a student tries the unconventional in confronting her imaginary enemy: "Nora, don't you think you should be a little less arrogant?"

"Not quite there," the instructor declares.

The rest are not very funny either. The bile pours, but true wit is in short supply. Never mind. Mr Pöhm has classified every kind of social atrocity, and devised the corresponding deterrent, or indeed counter-attack. All you need to do is learn them by heart, and practise to improve the speed of delivery.

After lunch, the teacher lets us into the secret of the "exaggerated response". Irony, he explains, is rare in Germany, self-irony practically unheard of.

Nineteen pairs of eyes widen. "What you do," Mr Pöhm slowly explains, "is take on the criticism, amplify it and throw it straight back."

The lesson on self-deprecating humour proved to be *The Independent's* finest hour. "You never listen," came the mock charge. "What did you say?" whimpered your correspondent, to squeals of delight all round.

There were, roughly, a dozen different ways to disarm an aggressor with a quick one-liner which, this being the German language, can actually run to four lines, crowned inevitably by the verb at the end. It is worth waiting for, none the less. As the 19 participants spar with one another, one can detect in their eyes an intoxicating rush of adrenalin, a feeling of barriers being transcended by a mere curve of the lip.

It is five o'clock, time to put away the pens, retract those razor-sharp tongues, and face the bleak world outside. Mr Pöhm exhorts his pupils to revise for half an hour three times a week, puts in a plug for his book - two hundred pages of come-backs and double entendres - and the class is dismissed.

Dr Albrecht Bender, a patent lawyer who has just spent DM500 on his quantum leap to a new consciousness, is satisfied with the day's work. "It has been a very useful course," he says. "Now I must concentrate on the practical side of what I've learnt. I will revise, work slowly, and maybe, in three months' time, I will be ready to incorporate some of this into my personality."

IMRE KARACS

Hundreds arrested in China

BY CHRISTIAN VIRANT
In Peking

CHINA HAS tightened its grip on the north-western province of Xinjiang, transferring a team of crack troops to a city rocked by riots in 1997 and arresting hundreds of suspected "terrorists" and religious militants.

Some 1,000 troops were transferred to Yining city, the capital of Xinjiang's Yili region, last month, the *Xinjiang Legal Daily* said yesterday.

Xinjiang, home to Turkish-speaking Uighurs, has been rocked by rioting since the mid-Nineties. Muslim Uighur militants have agitated for an independent East Turkestan in Xinjiang, which borders Afghanistan, Pakistan and three former Soviet republics.

Yesterday, Amnesty International accused Peking of stepping up persecution of Uighurs. (Reuters)

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News Analysis: Everyone agrees on the need to change the world's 'financial architecture' – but how?

No easy answer to market reform

BY JEREMY WARNER

SCARCELY A DAY passes without reference by some high-powered policy-maker to reform of the "global financial architecture". Last weekend, the corridors and podiums of the World Economic Forum annual conference in Davos, Switzerland, were alive with the sound of this somewhat pretentious phrase.

What does it mean? Why does this architecture, whatever it is, need reforming? And what are the chances of any substantive changes being brought about, given the perceived global nature of the problem?

The answer to these questions necessitates a small history lesson. There was little understanding in the West either of the causes or consequences of the financial crisis in emerging markets when it first began to hit home in the summer of 1997.

Almost universally it was blamed on bad government and bad policy, on cronyism and corruption, and on poor accountability and transparency in the economies most affected by the flight of capital. The immediate analysis was that there had been a huge misallocation of capital by the financial markets which was being legitimately corrected.

However, as the crisis began to spread like a contagious disease from one economy to another – some of them, such as Hong Kong, apparently healthy and thriving – it became clear this was not the whole story. Was there not something fundamentally wrong with the capital markets themselves that they should boom and bust in this destructive and arbitrary way?

Perhaps, it was said with growing certainty, the problem lay in the unregulated nature of global money and capital. In all developed countries the capital markets are highly regulated: there are checks and balances that dampen their wilder excesses, there are investor compensation schemes, and there are lenders of last resort to bail out the banking system when it shows signs of cracking.

Few of these things exist in developing countries. On a global scale, there is no such system of regulation, and outside the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, there are no institutions to act as a safety net. Capital flows are unmonitored and untamed.

What we have just witnessed, it is often said, is the wild west frontier of unfettered capitalism. The effect of this trigger-happy lawlessness has been to plunge the majority of the world (in



Robert Rubin, Michel Camdessus and Gordon Brown must battle with the speculators to keep the world economy on course

terms of population) into deep and pervasive recession, and led many policy makers and economists to question some of the fundamentals of the free market system.

So when policy makers talk of the "global financial architecture", what they tend to be referring to is its absence.

Those institutions that do exist – such as the IMF – have been subjected to unprecedented criticism. On the one hand, the IMF has been accused of imposing socially unjust and economically flawed policy programmes on countries it has tried to help. On the other, it is accused of bailing out Western creditors and investors through its aid and assistance – as the money lent by the IMF has almost invariably been used merely to pay them back – thus absolving the capital markets from responsibility for their actions.

Some of these criticisms are exaggerated or only partially

true. For instance, in no case was the IMF money sufficient to bail out all Western creditors, and many have suffered catastrophic loss. In some cases, the higher interest rates imposed by the IMF have succeeded in stabilising currencies. And hardly anyone would seriously challenge the structural economic reform the IMF has attempted to impose – generally unsuccessfully, it ought to be said – as part of its programmes.

Even so, it is testament to the scale and persistence of the attacks that Stanley Fischer, the IMF's normally measured deputy chairman, was visibly shaking with anger and emotion as he sought to defend the IMF from its critics in Davos.

Nor are these doubts about the behaviour of global money, or the ability of international organisations as presently constructed to police it, confined to Asian and left-leaning European politicians. Even in the US, land of the free, there is wide-

spread acceptance that the market-based system needs to be reformed and strengthened in order to maintain and restore financial stability.

Robert Rubin, US Treasury Secretary and before that an investment banker of 27 years standing, says: "There is no question but that unfettered markets do not and cannot by their nature best deal with all needs, and that there are enormous challenges ahead for us if we are to have a market based system that fulfils its potential."

Just two years ago any such statement from a US Treasury Secretary, let alone one who had formerly been head of Goldman Sachs, would have been considered almost heresy.

So what are the remedies? As ever, there is a legion of possible cures and there is little agreement on any of them. So let's start with what mainstream policy makers – that is, those in the G7 countries – can agree on.

First, they agree that a single global regulator to enforce adequate standards of accountability, transparency, discipline and banking supervision worldwide is a practical impossibility.

As the newly created Financial Services Authority in Britain is discovering, it is hard enough

to achieve all encompassing regulation on a national level. Think about the bureaucracy required to do it internationally.

Instead, Hans Tietmeyer, the Bundesbank President, instructed to draw up a report for the G7 on reforming the international financial architecture, is opting for "a standing committee on global financial regulation".

What is proposed is that national regulators are brought together under a federal, umbrella organisation to agree on common best practice standards of supervision, accountability and transparency. In Britain, the FSA already imposes higher capital standards for bank lending to countries with poor policy regimes or unsound banking systems. This is seen as a possible model.

Some politicians – such as Gordon Brown, the Chancellor – want to go further and establish codes of conduct for macro-economic policy too.

For instance, countries that wish to avail themselves of the benefits of capital markets might be required to operate a credible independent monetary policy. Fiscal policy would have to be conducted along lines similar to those agreed in the Maastricht

Treaty to govern European Monetary Union.

So far, so good. Even though some of these proposals interfere quite substantially with the operation of the free market system, there is a broad consensus around them. But do they go far enough?

Financial markets are very human in the way they operate, and after a severe shock, such as the one we have just seen through, they are always reluctant and risk averse. As things stand, they don't need to be told not to invest in high-risk regions.

However, like the compulsive gambler, they always eventually return to the gaming table. The present frenzy in Internet stocks might be viewed as an example of how little they have learned.

As the good times roll, markets become ever more careless about analysing and weighing risk. In a recent, reflective speech on these issues, Mr Rubin called this phenomenon "reaching for yield".

The effect is to create excesses and bubbles. In the emerging markets crisis, these excesses combined with the macro-economic and structural problems of developing coun-

tries to produce a fatally poisonous cocktail.

Such carelessness is not confined to emerging markets. We've already mentioned the Internet boom. To this must be added Long-Term Capital Management, which operated from the world's largest and most successful economy in an entirely unregulated way. The only figures available from LTCM were cursory monthly profit statements. Yet banks were still queuing at the door to lend it money, even though they had not the faintest idea of who else had lent and on what terms.

The lesson is that, however much regulation is put in place, the markets generally find a way round it. Markets have always been largely driven by greed and fear – no code of conduct, however robust, would be sufficient to stop these extremes of behaviour.

As a consequence, some policy makers favour more radical measures to bring markets to heel. One such proposal would be to create a world lender of last resort, which would act much like national central banks in flooding regions with liquidity when problems begin to emerge. Such support would be made conditional; only countries pursuing appropriate economic policies would be availed of it. In other words, there would be a public and private insurance mechanism, based on a pre-qualification procedure of some sort.

Another proposal, favoured by Gordon Brown, is an "early warning" system that would anticipate crises and allow policy makers to take evasive action.

However, all such solutions suffer from a basic flaw. Capital markets cannot work effectively unless creditors and investors are made to bear the consequences of the risk they take. Investment bankers call this characteristic "moral hazard". Furthermore, the vast scale of today's capital markets mean there can never be sufficient public finance to deal with the kind of crises encountered in the past two years.

Nor is there much sympathy among US policy makers for fixed exchange-rate systems, dollarisation of emerging markets or capital controls. So, despite all the talk of reform, what we actually end up with may not be terribly dramatic.

Few countries want to opt out of globalisation and even fewer think there is any realistic alternative to the free market system. But, as everyone knows, the free market doesn't sit easily with middle-class policy makers. Once you start interfering with the market's freedom to take risk and allocate capital as it sees fit, you undermine many of its benefits. As Mr Rubin has said: "There are no easy answers and no magic wands."

IN BRIEF

AirTouch profits rise by 54%

AIRTOUCH, the US telecoms company set to be acquired by Vodafone later this year, yesterday reported a 54 per cent rise in net income in 1998 to \$608m (£370m), with fourth-quarter profits ahead of expectations at \$130m.

AirTouch added 4.3 million subscribers last year, bringing its total to 17.6 million. The AirTouch-Vodafone deal, which is expected to close in the second half of 1999, will create a global wireless company with more than 27 million customers in 23 countries.

Scots mull GMTV

SCOTTISH MEDIA GROUP has confirmed it is considering a number of options in respect of its 20 per cent holding in broadcaster GMTV. "No decision has yet been taken in respect of any of these options," Scottish Media said yesterday in response to recent speculation.

In the past, Scottish Media has said it could sell its entire stake in GMTV or even buy out the other partners. Carlton and Granada also hold 20 per cent stakes in GMTV, while Walt Disney and Guardian Media Group have 25 per cent.

OfTel backs off

OFTEL, the telecoms watchdog, yesterday backed away from price-regulating the mobile phone industry, arguing that competition between the four networks was already bringing prices down. However, small telecoms companies reacted with dismay to the regulator's suggestion that mobile operators should be allowed to charge retail prices when opening up their networks to other firms.

Federal advance

FEDERAL-MOGUL, the US car parts group that is considering trumping a £1bn bid by rival TRW for LucasVarity, yesterday reported a tripling in fourth-quarter profits. A string of acquisitions, including the UK's T&N, helped profits climb to \$36m (£22m) from \$12m last year. The results came as a leading City analyst said a counterbid for Lucas by Federal-Mogul was "not probable" because of the high costs involved.

Too fit for AIM

FITNESS FIRST, the health club operator, plans to move to the main market from AIM next week, although it said it had no immediate plans to raise fresh capital. The news came as the company reported a doubling of full-year profits to £2.7m and said it planned to boost its number of health clubs from 45 to 59 this year, with a longer-term target of 150.

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Telewest to launch digital television service

TELEWEST, the cable operator, is planning to launch its digital cable television service before Christmas this year.

Telewest has placed an order for 100,000 set-top box decoders from Pace Micro Technology, the electronics manufacturer. It has also selected software supplied

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

by NCI, the joint venture between the US technology giants Netscape and Oracle, to run the system. The move means the entire UK cable industry will be using the same standard for digital services.

Tony Illsey, Telewest's chief executive, confirmed that Telewest was having a "very positive dialogue" with Cable & Wireless Communications about co-operating on digital services. However, he denied the two were discussing a merger. Analysts have long believed

that the three cable operators will have to join together.

Telewest is planning to launch a high-speed Internet service that could work through a personal computer or over the television.

The news came as Telewest issued operating statistics

which showed that in telephony Telewest's penetration jumped 1.9 percentage points to 31.6 per cent, while in cable television penetration was up 3.1 points to 25.1 per cent. But the "churn" rate in telephony increased to 21.5 per cent as British Telecom lured back customers.

Stakis receives £1bn bid offer

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA AND NIGEL COPE

STAKIS, the hotel and casino group, yesterday revealed that it has received a £1bn bid approach, believed to have come from Ladbrokes, the hotels and bookmaking giant. The approach, pitched at around 140p per share, pushed Stakis shares 23 per cent higher to 137p.

Ladbrokes declined to comment although analysts said it was by far the most likely bidder after it failed with two key expansion moves last year. It bought the Coral chain of bookmakers but was forced to sell them on by the regulatory authorities. It was also outbid by Bets for the Inter-Continental hotels chain.

Talks between Ladbrokes and Stakis are thought to have started some weeks ago and have proceeded on an amicable basis. Ladbrokes is thought to be interested in retaining the highly regarded Stakis management team, led by David Michels, chief executive. The deal would create a powerful hotel and casinos group

with interests spanning five-star London hotels such as the Langham Hilton to provincial casinos in smaller towns. Stakis owns 51 provincial hotels and four hotels in London including the Metropole. It also controls 22 casinos and 67 Living Well health and fitness clubs.

Ladbrokes, which owns the Hilton name outside the US, has several top London hotels but just 22 mid-market Hilton hotels outside the capital. In casinos it owns some of the capital's glitzy venues such as Maxims in Kensington.

A takeover of Stakis would provide a huge windfall for the founding Stakis family, who still control around 5 per cent of the shares. The group was founded in 1943 by Sir Leo Stakis, a Greek Cypriot who moved to Glasgow and started out selling his mother's lace. Ladbrokes shares closed 4.25p lower at 238.75p.

TSB Base Rate
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IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

CHANCERY DIVISION - COMPANIES COURT
No 7226 of 1998

In the Matter of MERCURY WORLD MINING TRUST plc and
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 27th January 1999 confirming the reduction of the share premium account and share capital of the above-named Company by £233,230,284.20 and the Minute approved by the Court showing with respect to the capital as altered the several particulars required by the above Act were registered by the Registrar of Companies on 29th January 1999.

Dated this 5th day of February 1999
Simmons & Simmons
21 Wilson Street
London EC2M 2TX
Tel: 0171-628 2020
Ref: SF5US6888/RES/SWW

ECB looks increasingly out of step

TWO CENTRAL banks have decided to leave interest rates unchanged in the past two days - the US Federal Reserve and the European Central Bank. There is, however, a world of difference in their respective inactivity.

The Fed has done a truly remarkable job of testing the limits of low inflation growth. Rates have been left unchanged despite the 5 per cent-plus growth rate the economy has displayed in recent months. Although some economists are starting to mutter that Alan Greenspan might have to think about raising interest rates quite soon to slow the pace of growth and, more important, halt the stock market bubble, all agree that the US has displayed a spectacular and long-lasting combination of high growth, low unemployment and low inflation.

Euro interest rates are lower, at 3 per cent, but then the European economy is a sad specimen by comparison. Inflation is zero but unemployment is stuck above 11 per cent on average and the long-awaited recovery in growth is threatening to go into reverse. All the recent news from the mainland has pointed to the need, or at least the scope, for looser monetary policy. However, the ever less impressive Wim Duisenberg said again yesterday that he sees no need yet to cut loan costs.

The Bank of England's unexpected activism puts it firmly in the Fed school of monetary policy. Its statement made clear that it sees the inflation target of 2.5 per cent as asymmetric - being too far below



OUTLOOK

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The Bank of England's unexpected activism puts it firmly in the Fed school of monetary policy. Its statement made clear that it sees the inflation target of 2.5 per cent as asymmetric - being too far below

is as bad as being too far above. Given the uncertain external environment and the absence of inflationary pressures, there was no reason not to cut rates by more than expected. Growth gets a boost with, according to most forecasts, little inflationary danger.

It might yet turn out that both the Fed and the Bank of England have cut too far. In the case of the US, there is growing gloom about the sustainability of the expansion, and its reliance on a buoyant stock market. Some Wall Street bears criticise the Fed's loose policy for puffing up the stock market bubble. The pessimistic scenario is that if inflationary bottlenecks do emerge, the Fed will have to raise rates, the market will crash and there will be a much steeper slowdown than there would have been under a more cautious interest rate policy.

In the UK, meanwhile, there is wide disagreement not just about the outlook for the economy but also about how it is performing right now. Almost invariably in the past 30 years, rapid falls in interest rates

have had to be equally rapidly reversed. The hope is that this characteristic has changed under the new policy arrangements, but there is always the danger it has not.

In both cases, it is possible to argue that the monetary authorities have taken risks with inflation, albeit on a lesser scale than in the past. But to make the argument is to highlight the contrast between the Anglo-Saxon and Continental approaches. Turn it around and it is possible to argue that the ECB is taking an equally reckless risk with jobs and growth. Central bankers are bound to make mistakes. The question is which mistake it ought to be at a time when the world is in financial crisis and prices are stable or falling. Just to pose the question is to know the answer.

BMW's dog

IT IS hard not to feel a certain schadenfreude as Bernd Pischetsrieder, the boss of BMW, stares into the abyss. When he bought Rover

in 1994 for a price which seemed fancy even then, there was an arrogance in his assumption that German efficiency could do for Rover what billions of pounds of taxpayers' money and a spell under British Aerospace's ownership had singularly failed to achieve.

Five years and £3bn of investment later, far from turning Rover around, the old dog looks like being the nemesis of its master. BMW has suffered the humiliation of seeing its profits fall for the first time in years, not because its own brand is faltering, but because of the black hole over here into which it has been pouring funds.

Whilst it is hard yet accurate to say that the vultures are circling, BMW would be snapped up by any number of bigger and hungrier predators if only the Quandt family could be persuaded to sell. The sale of Volvo to Ford makes the world an even lonelier place for the likes of BMW, which is now regarded as a minnow in motoring terms, even though it churns out more than a million cars a year.

When he took charge, Mr Pischetsrieder, spoke dreamily of the golden days of British motoring and evoked images of everyone driving around once again in Wolseleys and Rileys. And indeed the new Rover 75, a retro version of the stylish saloons of the late 1950s, is, by all accounts going down a storm with the motoring press test driving the car out in Spain.

But it is more likely to be Mr Pischetsrieder's swansong than Rover's salvation. The real gap in the marque's line up is a model that can compete credibly in the medium segment of the market where Rover is woefully represented by the 200-400 series.

Mr Pischetsrieder's rumoured successor, Wolfgang Reitzle, has no such sentimental attachments to weigh him down. Indeed anyone who spotted his cameo performance in the TV series "When BMW met Rover", will recall a cold-eyed fellow whose schedule definitely had no room for the film-wrapped German sausage

and sauerkraut so lovingly prepared by the Rover dinner ladies at Canley.

The unions fear Mr Reitzle is the type who could close Longbridge down, tell Tony Blair to keep his £300m in aid and switch production to Hungary without so much as a blink. That would mean 15,000 job losses, minimum, and the first real test of Mr Blair's New Labour free market rhetoric.

RAC cockup

IT WAS perhaps to be expected that an investigation characterised by cockups should end with one final humdinger of a mistake.

Yes, the Monopolies and Mergers Commission managed to misspell the name of the American company it was investigating on the front of yesterday's report concerning the RAC takeover. The name Condant was spelt Sedant. Last night an embarrassed DTI was hurriedly recalling copies and ordering a reprint.

PowerGen's £1.5bn sale exceeds best hopes

POWERGEN is set to raise up to £1.5bn from the sale of two of its coal-fired power stations - far more than the auction had been expected to raise.

Five bidders have submitted offers for the stations - Ferrybridge and Fiddler's Ferry - all of which are well in excess of the reserve price of £900m originally indicated by PowerGen.

Leading the bidders are the nuclear generator, British Energy, and the recently merged Scottish and Southern Energy. Mission Energy of the US, which bought the National Grid's pumped storage power stations, has also submitted a bid, as has John Devaney, the former chairman of Eastern.

The fifth bidder is thought to be the US utility Entergy, which recently sold London Electricity to Electricite de France for £1.9bn. Centrica, the trading arm of the former British Gas, has not made a bid.

The sale of the two stations, which have a combined output of 4,000 megawatts, is due to be completed in April. The sale was forced on PowerGen by the electricity regulator in return for approval to buy East Midlands Electricity.

Once East Midlands is fully bedded in PowerGen, led by chairman Ed Wallis, is expected to make the purchase of another regional electricity

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

company its priority. It is also looking at further overseas expansion and has targeted India, Thailand and China, where it could buy generating plant that is already running.

PowerGen also remains interested in a US acquisition despite the failure to pull off the £10bn merger of equals with Houston Industries. The deal was called off last summer just four days before it was due to be signed. PowerGen had even completed the corporate staff video explaining the rationale for the merger.

Meanwhile the new energy regulator, Calium McCarthy, said Scottish Power may have to live off its Scottish supply and transmission business into a completely separate company to gain approval for its acquisition of the US electricity company PacifiCorp.

Southern Electric and Scottish Hydro-Electric agreed to hire off their generating activities within three years as a condition of being allowed to merge.

In a consultative document, Mr McCarthy said Scottish Power's US deal raised concerns about its ability to fund its UK operations. He said safeguards might have to be put in place to prevent resources being diverted elsewhere.

Adecco to form IT staffing giant with £167m buy

ADECCO, the Swiss staffing giant, plans to become a world leader in the computer staffing industry following its acquisition yesterday of Delphi, the troubled IT recruitment firm, for £167m.

The offer, which includes a final dividend of 15p, values Delphi at 505p a share in cash, more than double its low point at the end of last year but still well below the shares' all-time high of 905p in 1997. By the close yesterday, Adecco said it owned or had irrevocable undertakings for 29.9 per cent of Delphi shares, which ended up 57.5p at 555p.

The deal is a big step forward in Adecco's ambition to become the world leader in the fast-growing IT recruitment industry. "The industry is consolidating and we have been a major consolidator," said John Bowmer, Adecco's chief executive.

Adecco is one of the largest staffing companies in the world, with revenues of £5.6bn and operating profits of £279m last year. Its UK operations include Jonathan Wren, the banking and insurance recruitment specialist.

Despite its recent woes - when mis-management destroyed its credibility with in-

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

vestors - Delphi is still the largest IT recruitment agency in the UK, with sales of £277m in the year to December 1997.

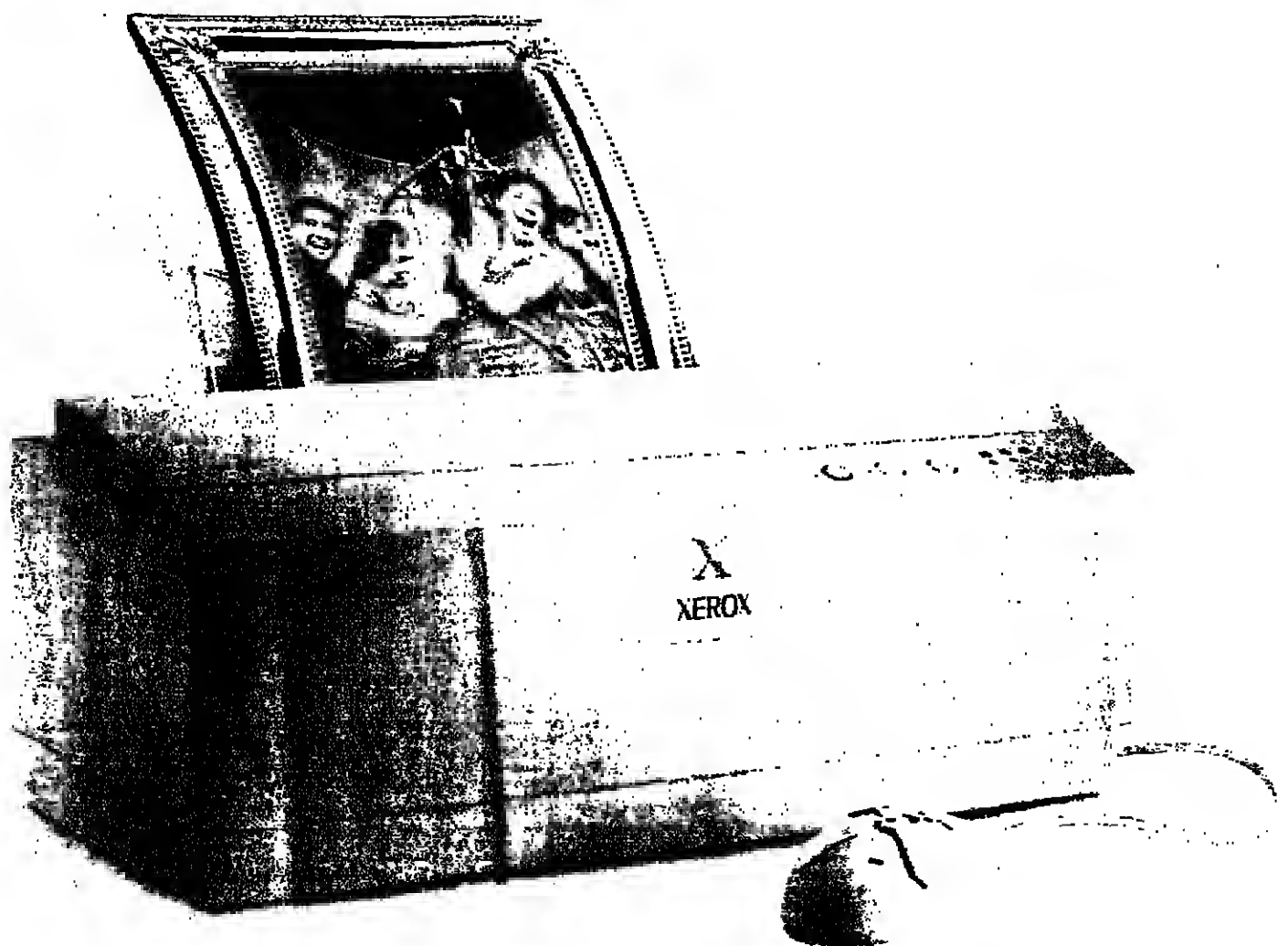
IT recruitment companies have taken a beating in the City recently as investors have become concerned about a slowdown in demand for contractors as the preparations for the millennium are completed.

However, John Bowmer, Adecco's chief executive, rejected suggestions that the company's move into IT recruitment was poorly timed. "We are in the midst of a technological revolution similar to the industrial revolution," he said. "The technology is here to stay."

Mr Bowmer said consolidation was being prompted by large companies which were attempting to reduce their suppliers. "Big firms want to have a similar service around the world. We can offer them a one-stop-shop," he said.

Tony Reeves, Delphi's chief executive, will be in charge of Adecco's IT staffing operations in Europe and will lead its strategy in IT recruitment. He stressed that none of Delphi's staff would lose their jobs as a result of the deal.

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SPORT

Five Nations' Championship: Experienced coach has France ready for double campaign, which starts in Dublin tomorrow

Confidence the key for Villepreux



RICHARD WILLIAMS

THE HOOKED nose, the stubble, the general air of a man for whom there is very little in life that could not be improved by the accompaniment of a glass of house red: the older he gets, the more Pierre Villepreux comes to resemble the late Serge Gainsbourg. And this is probably the last person over the age of puberty anywhere in the world who can still get away with putting his baseball cap on backwards.

At 54, the guru of French rugby is approaching the climactic test of his long and convoluted career. On Saturday at Lansdowne Road the team of which he is an assistant coach begins its two-stage journey through the Five Nations' Championship, which holds out promise of a third consecutive Grand Slam, and the World Cup, in which France may be considered the most likely of the European nations to go all the way.

This week, on the day before their departure for Dublin, Villepreux was to be found prowling the lumpy turf of the Stade du Vieux Moulin in Rambouillet, taking his players through their practice routines. So, to be better known, thanks to its vast presidential castle, as the location of the Kosovo peace talks, Rambouillet is a quiet town 50 kilometres south of Paris and a few minutes away from the squad's training centre. Schoolchildren and local enthusiasts crowded the touchline as the chosen XV faced their reserves, with a group of army internationals making up the numbers.

On a cold, dry afternoon, the players ran through a sequence of 15-man handling moves. Close support was the message, along with swift transfer and unpredictable angles of running. Philippe Caronneau and Thomas Castaignède, the half-backs, moved from breakdown to breakdown, flicking the ball out to the criss-crossing runners. From a distance, it looked like a demonstration of classic French improvisation.

"No," Villepreux said, in a tone of amiable reproach. "Improvisation is not the right word, I think. Improvisation is something that happens when you have no sense of the situation that you're in. We want to give the players that sense, the ability to find a weakness in the defence of the other team. Improvisation, for me it's too much dangerous. If you improvise, one player will see one thing and another will see something else. It doesn't work."

Well, whatever it is, it looks as spontaneous and as pretty as it did in the days, between 1967 and 1972, when Villepreux was winning his 34 caps at full-back, even though the sense of tactical organisation is quite different. "It was much easier then," he protested. But the modern way seems every bit as faithful to the cherished legend of French flair.

"Yes, yes, yes," he responded. "Of course, the flair is one of the lengths of French rugby. We have



Pierre Villepreux keeps his eye on a French training session at Wanderers in Dublin yesterday to ensure Gallic flair will not override organisation on the pitch tomorrow

Billy Stickland/Impho

to keep it and we have to give the players more confidence in this capacity to create quickly problems for their adversaries."

That emphasis on confidence invoked the occasional lack of mental strength that is another part of the French tradition, and which showed up before Christmas in a narrow defeat at the hands of Australia. Some felt this result placed the Five Nations achievements into a truer perspective, particularly with the World Cup approaching, and France hoping to improve on their semi-final place in 1995.

It had been an interesting game, Villepreux said. "First of all, because we learnt that we are not very far away from the level of the Southern Hemisphere. Secondly, because if we had been able to play in the second half with the same discipline as in the first half, we would have won. Discipline is vital at the highest level. It's more important than ever to respect the rules. Teams that don't understand that are penalising themselves. Against Australia, for a long time the French were not disciplined. Then it changed. It's necessary to get serious on this question."

The problem for the French team is to say, "OK, we are strong because we want to play one type of

game, and it's our game." Not always to say, "Oh, we have to adapt our game to the other side." Play on your strengths first of all, and after that you adapt your game defensively to the other team. But for me this defeat was not really bad."

To most outsiders, Villepreux's involvement with the national squad has been long overdue. After doing brilliant work with Stade Toulousain, he was frozen out by the *grands* fromages of the French rugby federation during the long dictatorship

chief coach, who is five years younger. But it is Villepreux whose vision of rugby is embodied in the dynamic handling game with which the French have won their most recent honours.

Before the training session, Maso had announced the line-up for Lansdowne Road in an address which included several mentions of the team's need to approach the match with "humility". Was that just a handy word, or could Villepreux reconcile it with his own insistence

that "So that gives us two aims. If we can win another Grand Slam, it will be a very interesting base from which to prepare for the World Cup. And if we don't win the Five Nations, I hope that we can play rugby which prepares us as well as possible for the big event."

Could the squad approach both competitions with the same strategy and style? "Yes, yes, yes, I'm sure of that, and I'm also sure that the World Cup will be open. The winning team will really give a big show for

a good moment, and it's important to lose at a good moment. And after that the European teams... the Welsh, France, England, and why not the Irish, because they have the quarter-final in Dublin, so all is possible. All is possible."

Except, evidently, for the Scots, who were gently dismissed in Villepreux's assessment of France's opponents in the Five Nations. "They're having to change their mentality and consider rugby differently. I think the Welsh team have improved a lot in their attacking rugby. It's the aim of their coach, it seems to me, to give his team the mental approach of the Southern Hemisphere." And England? "It's difficult to give an impression of what they want, exactly. They have some good players, so it's basically a good team."

The French had spent the morning at Château Ricard, their training centre, where the backs had been shut away with Villepreux in a brainstorming session. The big news was that Emile Ntamack had been pronounced fit to resume his Five Nations career by moving from the wing to full-back, a switch prefigured by Ntamack's appearance in the No 15 jersey for an hour of the match between a French selection and Italy in Genoa the previous Satur-

day. But the injury-prone Toulousain player, who missed an entire season through a groin injury, had suffered a knock against the Italians and spent the hour before lunch on the treatment table.

"He played a very nice game against Italy," Villepreux said, a few feet away from where Ntamack lay with electrodes attached to his left knee. "It's important for him to return to the team and we will try to use his potential. I think he's become stronger, because he's worked a lot physically, and he's got a lot of confidence. If he's able to play at his best level, certainly he'll be a big weapon for France."

Bearing tomorrow's rendezvous in mind, he acknowledged the relevance of Ulster's European Cup victory, achieved by the Irish club with defeats of three top French sides in a row. "Evidently it's a problem for French rugby, and so we want to see on Saturday if it's really like that or not. The Irish have made a lot of progress. It hasn't made us change our preparation, but we have seen a lot of Irish rugby, and we have seen a lot of Irish players, and the key will be the capacity of the French team to defend well against the Irish forwards. If we have this capacity, I am sure we have the key to the game."

'The aim for this season is naturally the World Cup. If we can win another Grand Slam, it will be a very interesting base from which to build for the World Cup'

of Albert Ferrasse. While Jacques Fouroux and Pierre Berbizier struggled to bring order to instinctive brilliance, Villepreux operated as a hired gun, spreading his wisdom around the rugby-playing world - even, briefly, to Jack Rowell's England squad.

Now he is part of a settled, harmonious group, working alongside two men whose international playing careers overlapped with his own: Jo Maso, his exact contemporary, who is the squad's manager, and Jean-Claude Skrela, the

on giving the players self-confidence?

"Yes," he said, "because when you are the first and you start a new competition, in your head it's necessary to be second, not first."

After two consecutive Grand Slams, the French coaches could be excused for telling themselves, OK, things are going well, let's just carry on. But this is a different sort of season, and requires a mental adjustment throughout the squad.

"The aim of this season is naturally the World Cup," Villepreux

rugby. So we have to prepare for that in the Five Nations. But I am sure that this year's Five Nations will be very interesting because all the conditions are trying to improve their rugby with the aim of the World Cup."

And which countries does he think capable of winning the big one? "I think that the French team have a little, little, little chance, which we'll try to take. Certainly Australia and South Africa, maybe not in that order, will be the best. But also New Zealand. New Zealand have lost at

Murray keeps moving onwards

A former basketball player will be coming down to earth tomorrow when Wales visit Murrayfield. By David Llewellyn

IT WOULD be fair to say that the worst three hours of Scott Murray's rugby career were not his first two appearances for his country, as traumatic as were the thrashings handed out by first Australia, then South Africa, in late autumn and early winter 1997.

The Murrayfield nightmares were seven long months away when the young Bedford lock suffered a harrowing 180 minutes in hospital, wondering if he would ever see out of his left eye again. He was punched during Bedford's match against Newcastle. "I couldn't see out of my left eye for about three hours. It was very frightening," he said.

To take his mind off the unthinkable he borrowed a mobile telephone and kept ringing the Goldington Road ground for updates on the state of affairs between the then Second Division rivals. It all ended happily. Bedford won and Murray recovered his vision.

Since then it has been onward and upward for the former Scotland Schools basketball international, who was 23 last month. Under the

influence of Bedford's player-coach, Rudi Straeuli, he has matured into a superb second-row forward. His previous incarnation means he has a great degree of mobility around the pitch. If they were to ban lifting at the line-out Murray's natural athleticism would see him soaring from a standing jump to pluck the ball away from the opposition.

Yet it was almost by chance that Murray is where he is. He was selected for Scotland Under-18s on the same weekend that he was called up for a basketball international. "The basketball people wanted me to turn out for them on the Friday evening, play rugby on the Saturday then more basketball on the Sunday," he remembers. "The rugby authorities said there was no way I could do that. The reason I chose to play rugby that weekend was because it was harder to get in to the rugby team. There was more competition."

The basketball part of his life stems from his father's interest and participation in the game. Also, because his father was in the army, Murray was brought up for much of his formative years in Germany, hardly a hotbed of rugby.

Despite that, or perhaps because of it, he has made it to the top - although he does admit to being surprised to win his first cap for Scotland while Bedford were still in the Second Division.

But, on reflection, perhaps it was understandable, because, as Murray says: "When I joined Bedford from Edinburgh Academicals the year before, I realised straightaway that I was making a step up in standard, even though Bedford were in the Second Division."

"I found myself playing with a lot of better players and as a youngster you can take a lot from those around you. Also at Accies I was not a steady first-team player. It wasn't until I

joined Bedford that I got a regular run of hard games."

The question has to be asked: why Bedford in the first place? The answer, given the coyness of so many sporting professionals these days, is astonishingly frank. "It was a lot to do with money," says Murray. "They offered me twice as much as everyone else. There wasn't much to think about."

However much he is being paid, and ultimately that is an irrelevance, Murray is paying back Bedford in spades. He has been a key figure in their rise to Allied Premiership One and he has survived some unpleasant international results to be on the brink of winning his eighth cap for Scotland.

Things have had to change for him, though, in order for him to succeed as he has done, not least his approach to the game. Murray confesses: "I was pretty lazy at Accies. I didn't go to the gym for

example." He implies he did just enough and no more, perhaps the motivation was not there.

Now, though, there is motivation aplenty. With his move south came a change in attitude, which has further resulted in a change of shape. "I am a lot bigger than when I played for Accies," he explains. "I am a stone and a half heavier - all muscle except for my beer gut - than I was. And my attitude has changed. I have to train, and I do."

The dividends are there for all to see. But Murray is never going to turn into the type of player who lives and breathes the game. He wants to savour life outside the professional's weekly routine of improving fitness and kicking balls and then spending the rest of the time kicking his heels, driven senseless with boredom.

"There's a group of us who make a point of doing something else. Most Fridays for example we will go clay pigeon shooting, and last week we went deep-sea fishing. Then on a Monday we attend a basic computer course, one which can lead to further, more advanced courses. There is the



Scott Murray: Change in attitude and change in shape

PA

homework which is generated from that and we also play golf."

Unusually for a Scot, especially one born in Musselburgh, Murray had not struck a golf ball with serious intent until he joined Bedford, but, as with the guitar which he has taken up recently and with some success, he would appear to be a fast learner. "I am playing off a handicap of 16," he says.

But for all his facility to learn

there is still a big gap in his rugby career. Although he played in the World Cup qualifiers last autumn when Scotland thrashed Spain and Portugal, no caps were awarded and Murray says: "I haven't won a match yet in which I have been capped." There is no doubt that he intends to end that unenviable record as soon as possible. Wales at Murrayfield tomorrow is his first opportunity. He is in the mood to take it.

Dale does his best to match heroes

Glenn McGrath's one-day partner is a late developer with the World Cup in his sights. By Stephen Brenkley in Sydney

THAT MAN at the other end from Glenn McGrath is Adam Dale. It is as well to remember this now, because when the World Cup is played in May he is likely to have a profound influence on Australia's destiny. He has spent the past month forging a formidable mean one-day new-ball partnership with the world's leading speed merchant.

They complement each other wonderfully. McGrath is the type of fast bowler who comes battering on the front door, forcing his credentials under your nose so you cannot help but stand up and take notice. Dale is the sidekick who sneaks in the side entrance, gives you the once over and gradually makes you feel distinctly uneasy.

From the opening match of the Carlton & United Series in Brisbane he has been relentlessly accurate, keeping the ball up to the bat, swinging it a little, hitting the seam, inviting the error. Only last Sunday, when Sanath Jayasuriya entered full destructive mode in Perth, has he been treated with anything less than forelock tugging, forward defensive respect.

"That was some way to go, and he's some batsman," said Dale. "I didn't think I was doing anything other than normal and he was just blasting me round the place. I asked somebody what I should do and was told there was nothing you can do."

Dale conceded 51 runs in six overs, the consolation being that he was not the first bowler to be Sanathed. That mauling apart (and it was splendid to watch, no matter what it did for the bowler's trust in the dictum that line and length bring their own reward) his bowling has yielded fewer than three runs an over throughout the triangular tournament.

"I'm trying to make the batsman think all then time, giving him nothing that he might take a fancy to," he said. "I just keep it there. I know I'm not the quickest bowler around so I have to use other weapons."

Dale's action is polished and fluid and he is lovely to watch with the white new ball. He is 29 and provides convincing evidence that not every Australian international cricketer was discovered in the cradle and had

his name put down for Adelaide Academy before learning to walk. Born and brought up in Victoria, he was overlooked for all the state age-group sides and was never assumed to be Sheffield Shield material. On moving to Queensland - "for work reasons, not cricketing ones" - the opposition was similarly stiff, but his accuracy earned him a place in the state squad. There he came under the influence of John Buchanan, whose services were dispensed with by Middlesex after only one summer in 1998, but who is still considered a guru in northern Australia.

"He has the ability to speak to players as individuals, to bring out the best of them, to express what they can and can't do well and how they might improve," said Dale. "He surrounded himself with exceptionally good coaching staff and I learned a lot there. I don't know if I'd have got as far as this without their help, but everything just fell into place with moving jobs and getting that sort of encouragement."

Dale broke into the Queensland side and at the end of his first full season took nine wickets in the Sheffield Shield final against Western Australia in Perth. He was just thinking what a pretty good effort that was when he was told he was on the Australian tour of South Africa.

"I hadn't thought a thing about it. It's still a matter of wonder to me that I'm bowling in the same side as Glenn McGrath and Shane Warne. These guys are heroes to me. I'm still full of nerves whenever I play for Australia. You ought to see me in my room beforehand."

Dale has played one Test match, on the tour of India last winter; notable for being a series that Australia actually lost under Mark Taylor's captaincy. They were already 2-0 down when Dale was selected for the final match, and although they won he has not been picked again.

The chances are that his relative lack of penetration in the longer game make him easier to overlook, and he is probably likely to remain a one-day specialist. "Of course the fundamental skills are the same, but they are evolving differently. There are things I do as a bowler in the



Australia's Adam Dale shows aggression during the current Carlton & United triangular one-day series

Allsport

Tourists given impetus by Bell

BY SPENCER WRIGHT
in New Plymouth

England Under-19 283 and 290
New Zealand Under-19 202 and 30-0

ENGLAND'S Under-19 spinners will have the responsibility of bowling their side to victory on today's final day here, and giving the tourists a 1-0 lead in the "Test" series against New Zealand.

England's batsmen, led by the 16-year-old Ian Bell, were bowled out for 290 to set the Kiwis a massive 374 to win the first Test. Although the home side reached the close on 30 for 0 without suffering any scares, they will have to bat well on a turning wicket to stave off defeat.

Bell, the Warwickshire right-hander, halted superbly for 91 and looked set for a hundred when he slipped as he backed up and was run out. His partnership of 111 for the second wicket with the captain Michael Gough, who ground out 43, set the foundations for what should be an unassailable lead.

After playing himself in, Bell took command of the situation, hitting the off-spinner Ben Jansen for three fours in an over to bring up his fifty. He looked in complete control and it took a freak dismissal to remove him from the crease.

However, only the Surrey left-hander Michael Carberry, of the other recognised batsmen, offered much resistance as England's innings faltered after lunch. But the Somerset seamer Matt Bullock produced an aggressive knock of 51, including a pulled six into the car park off the spinner Bruce Martin.

Bullock eventually holed out to deep square leg off the same bowler, having put on a valuable 48 for the last wicket with the wicketkeeper Mark Wallace. Martin, the Kiwi slow left-arm, took 5 for 76, including the last three wickets to fall.

Gough only allowed Graeme Bridge, the slow left-arm, and Richard Dawson, the off-spinner, an over each before the close, preferring to use the seamers, Bullock and Richard Logan.

Third day, England Under-19 won toss
ENGLAND Under-19 = First innings 285 (R M Jansen 67, R J Logan 53, IN Flanagan 53, H Shaw 5-49)
NEW ZEALAND Under-19 = First innings 202 (M Papp 64)

ENGLAND Under-19 = Second innings
(Overseas 47 for 1)
M A Gough c England b Martin 43
I Bell run out 31
M A Carberry c McGlashan b Hendry 26
M R Mousley c Gillespie b Hendry 25
R J Dawson c McIntosh b Martin 12
M P Bullock c Patton b Martin 51
M J Logan b Martin 4
R J Tucker c Gillespie b Hendry 4
R J Logan b Martin 2
G R Bridge c McGlashan b Martin 0
M A Wallace not out 14
Extras (b15, lb10, w4) 29
Total (107.1 overs) 290
Fall (over 10): 1-27, 2-179, 3-179, 4-195, 5-213, 6-215, 7-225, 8-235, 9-242

Bowling: Shaw 12-3-2-0, Flanagan 7-1-19-0, Gough 10-3-2-0, Martin 40-1-16-76-5, Jansen 24-6-60-0, Hendry 17-3-41-3
NEW ZEALAND Under-19 = Second innings
(Overseas 47 for 1)
M Papp not out 16
M Papp not out 16
Extras (b4) 4
Total (10.0 overs) 29
To bat: J England, J Frank, M Gillespie, M Hendry, B Jansen, P McGlashan, B Martin, S Patton, H Shaw, R Bullock (bats 4-1-1-0, Logan 4-0-1-0, Bridge 1-0-1-0, Dawson 1-0-0-0)
Umpires: R Piccini and M McLean

Spin of Saqlain torments India

THE PAKISTAN off-spinner Saqlain Mushtaq resumed his role as India's main tormentor with another five-wicket haul on the opening day of the second Test here yesterday.

Saqlain, who took 10 wickets in Pakistan's 12-run win in the opening test, teased the batsmen with his strict line and length. He rocked India with 5 for 94 after they had made a promising start. The home side, who won the toss and at one stage were 251 for 4, ended the day on 247 for 8.

Saqlain and the leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmed, who took two wickets, ripped through the middle order. After a useful 88-run opening partnership between Sadagopan Ramesh, who made 60, and Vangipurappu Lakshman (35), only India's captain, Mohammad Azharuddin, seemed at ease.

Ramesh, who was also dropped when he was on 24, completed a stylish half-century but was bowled

BY SUNIL KATARIA
in New Delhi

India 247 for 8 v Pakistan

after adding 10 more runs as he went for a pull off a delivery from Saqlain which kept low. He hit seven fours. Azharuddin scored a masterly 67 off 134 balls, hitting seven fours and a six over mid-wicket off the leg-spinner Shahid Afridi.

India lost their first wicket just after lunch when Wasim Akram uprooted Lakshman's stumps with an inswinger. Saqlain struck again soon after taking Ramesh's wicket, collecting the wicket of Sachin Tendulkar, who decided to play after recovering from muscle spasms suffered in the opening Test.

Tendulkar was trapped leg before for six - he had previously glanced the pace bowler Wagar Yousif for a fine four - but he was out leg-before to Saqlain to leave India on 122 for 3.

longer game that I just wouldn't do in the one-day game."

He is still so in awe of it all that he would not be drawn on his chances of being in England for the World Cup. He toured Scotland and Ireland last summer with Australia A and suspects, no more, that the

pitches might suit him. It was important not to encourage him too much in this regard but the vision of him making the ball hit the seam and moving it laterally next spring is not easily dismissed.

In common with most Australian cricketers, his international duties

do not prevent him holding down a full-time job. True, his promotions post with the rugby shirt makers, Canterbury, means he can have time off when he wants but he still has to return between matches. He not only still plays for Queensland when available but also for his club,

Wynnum Manly, where one of his team-mates is Stuart Law.

"I enjoy playing, but the standard is so high that if I didn't play and somebody else did well in my place then I might not get back. There's real competition." So said the man who partners Glenn McGrath.

Thomas takes five but rain ruins England's day

BY MARK HARGREAVES
in Harare

Zimbabwe A 147-7 v England A

compiling the largest partnership of the innings, adding 48 for the seventh wicket, when Strang edged Thomas to Andy Flintoff at second slip. The Zimbabwe captain, Andrew Whittall, ensured that the loss would not result in further collapse by playing straight with Carlisle. By mid-afternoon, however, the rain clouds had returned, forcing the players from the field again.

Zimbabwe A's seam bowler Darren Thomas removed Bryan Strang to earn with figures of 5 for 48. Zimbabwe's Stuart Carlisle, hoping to get his full Test place back after a two-year absence, reached 46 not out.

The outfield at the Alexandra Club had turned into a lake at the end of the second day, so it was not altogether surprising that play did not begin until after lunch.

Strang and Carlisle had been

compiling the largest partnership of the innings, adding 48 for the seventh wicket, when Strang edged Thomas to Andy Flintoff at second slip.

The Zimbabwe captain, Andrew Whittall, ensured that the loss would not result in further collapse by playing straight with Carlisle. By mid-afternoon, however, the rain clouds had returned, forcing the players from the field again.

ZIMBABWE A = First innings
(Overseas 99 for 6)
S V Carlisle not out 45
B C Strang c Flintoff b Thomas 29
A R Whittall not out 17
Extras (b10, lb10, w4) 24
Total (over 7.7: 22.2 overs) 147
Fall (over 7.7: 1-114
To bat: A Mucke, E Mazarandz
Bowling: Betts (4-0-61-3), Flintoff 12-5-24-3, Thomas 17-3-48-5, Collier 5-18-0-0
Umpires: I D Robinson and K C Searcy

Autissier returning to sea of sorrow

A MONTH of battling back through the southern ocean may be meat and drink to the 42-year-old French solo sailor Isabelle Autissier. But, as she leaves Auckland tomorrow for the third leg of the Around Alone Race to Punta del Este, Uruguay, she will not be able to forget the last time she was in that stretch of water which leads to the notorious Cape Horn.

BY STUART ALEXANDER

a major storm and had to abandon the attempt. Ruffs was lost.

This time Autissier is in the lead of a depleted Class One for 60-footers with her two main rivals, Giovanni Soldini and the Frenchman Marc Thiercelin, breathing down her neck. It is a tough call, but Autissier is a tough lady.

In fourth place is Britain's Joby Hall, well back on time but capable of picking up a top-three place as the weather takes its toll of those ahead

of him. Another Briton, Mike Garside, is second in Class II for 50-footers and will need a major breakthrough by the leader, Jean-Pierre Mouligne, to move up, as well as a major effort from himself to hold off America's Brad Van Liew in third place.

The race which started with 16 entries is down, officially, to 11, although two more, the Russian Fedor Kozlov and the Cornishman Robin Davie, who has yet to finish leg two, have said they will keep going as unofficial competitors.

The American George Stricker retired on leg one from Charleston, and the Canadian Sebastian Reid did not

make it to the start line. Already on its way back to Europe is Mike Golding's Team Group 4. In the overall lead of Class I nearing the end of leg two from Cape Town, Golding hit a sandbank off North Island's Cape Reinga, doing so much damage to the keel he was forced to withdraw from the race.

AROUND ALONE RACE Second leg (Cape Town to Auckland) 10 Solidified (P1) 27 days 5 hours 24 min 52 sec: 2 M Thiercelin (Somenziere) 25, 20, 42, 00; 3 J Autissier (P1) 26, 21, 33, 24; 4 J Hall (Garronard) 33, 00, 13, 31; Class II: 1 P Mouligne (Cory Valley) 25, 09, 49, 27; 2 M Garside (Magellan Alpha) 25, 16, 49, 56; 3 B Van Liew (Balance Bay) 35, 16, 52, 17; 4 V Mouligne (Wind of Change) 36, 00, 16, 00; 5 M Salto (Etienne-dohi) 32, 14, 00, 20; 6 N Petersen (No Barren) 52, 01, 12, 27; 7 M Hunter (Pablen II) 54, 21, 09, 10.

Foreigners hold key to glory

BY BILL COLWILL

YET ANOTHER sell-out is expected at Crystal Palace this evening for the sport's night of the year. Indoor football night has always been hotly contested and this year, with an increasing number of foreign players playing for English clubs, predicting the finalists becomes increasingly difficult.

Twice-winners East Grinstead have been finalists on seven occasions and runners-up in the last two years. They are in the same pool as Southgate and the defending champions, Reading, who beat them by the odd goal in 17 last year.

The north London club has, in the

past, made the occasional flurry into the indoor game without much success. This year, with Germany's Eiko Rott as captain and coach, fellow countryman Torben Gottschau and Austrian Grant von Mayer, along with Australia's Max Diamond and Todd Williams, they should provide sterner opposition.

Grinstead also have their foreigners - South Africa's Jamie Brown and the Belgian Ed Cabay, but their strength is likely to come

from the experience of Richard Leman, Richard Organ, Mahmood Bhatti and goalkeeper Jon Clark.

Their manager, Steve Kent, said: "We are quietly confident. We have a blend of Grinstead experience and international youth." It would be a brave man to place money on the finalist from this pool.

Old Loughtonians, winners in 1995 and 1996, have been drawn in the easier pool and should make the final with something to spare. They have an experienced squad with outstanding players and it is difficult to see Barford Tigers or Hull standing in their way of a final appearance.

Rugby League: New sponsorship deal helps clubs outside Super League start the new season in optimistic fashion

Single division has a single vision

THE RACE between professional clubs outside Super League will have a new name and a new profile when their season kicks off this weekend. What was once the first and second divisions are celebrating a sponsorship deal that will see them become the Northern Football League for 1999 and, provisionally, for two subsequent seasons.

For a competition that has struggled for recognition in recent seasons and which will see its funding from Sky after next year, the link-up with an international name - or at least its north of England dealerships - is a morale-boosting coup.

The product on the field has improved out of all recognition, the chairman of the soon-to-be-renamed First and Second Divisions Association, Bob McDermott, said as the deal was announced yesterday. "All it has lacked has been exposure and this money will be used to promote the competition."

The amount involved has not been revealed, but Ford showrooms will also be expected to strike up relationships with their local clubs and advertise the Premiership alongside their new models.

Their hope - and no doubt that of the clubs - is that negotiations for a magazine-style programme on terrestrial television will soon come to a successful conclusion. The clubs excluded from the British game's elite can then realistically hope to be self-supporting.

Apart from carrying a well-known name, the other obvious difference when the season begins on Sunday afternoon will be that two divisions have merged into one, consisting of 18 clubs.

While the carrot of winning the Grand Final at the end of September and elevation to Super League - just as Wakefield did last year - remains in place, the viability of the Premiership depends on the calibre of the competition.

The first division was fiercely competitive and unpredictable last year; there is a danger of more one-sided games now that the weaker clubs from the depths of the Second Division are being asked to step up a level.

Fox builds after double tragedy

FOR THE Rochdale Hornets' player-coach, Deryck Fox, this winter has been a trauma he would like to forget, but which he knows he never will.

The former Great Britain scrum-half has been to the funerals of two of his players, one of them his closest friend in the game.

The death of Karl Marriott in the autumn, at the age of 27, was a devastating blow in itself. "I only coached him for a few months, but I had a great respect for him as an opponent, for his strength and toughness," Fox said.

When Roy Powell died, like Marriott from a heart attack, at the end of December, it brutally severed a bond between him and Fox that went back to their days playing together as 12-year-olds for St John Fisher in Dewsbury.

"He was just as big then," recalled Fox. "The biggest, strongest lad you'd ever see. Even then we called him the gentle giant."

Their professional careers initially took them in different directions - Powell to Leeds and Fox to Featherstone - although they later played together for Bradford, Featherstone and Batley as well as in Test matches, before Fox brought his great friend over the Pennines to be his assistant.

"He would have been my right-hand man and obviously we're going to miss him badly," there was a fear that the loss of Marriott and Powell, two tragedies in such quick succession, could seriously damage Rochdale's prospects for the new season in the Northern Football League.

It's my old club and Roy's old club, so it's going to be an emotional afternoon all round. They've gained some good players as well as losing some, so it's a real test for us. With a full off-season - albeit one marred by tragedy - to work on the fitness and organisation of his squad, Fox now feels that Rochdale are the team, after the damage limitation when he took over midway through last season.

His own craft as scrum-half, alongside the flair of Willie Swann, gives them an immediate advantage over most clubs. He has brought in two experienced forwards in Andy Burgess and David Stephenson and he is tipping Danny Sculthorpe, brother of Great Britain's Paul, for a big season now that he has buckled down to serious training.

And Fox also has a legacy from Powell. "He wanted to go into coaching and he wrote down everything he heard from all his coaches that he thought he could use. It's a pile of paper about two inches thick and his wife, Helen, passed it on to me last week. He's left me plenty to read."

So Roy Powell is still looking after his little friend, just as he used to be on the field. "They say that everyone has a guardian angel," he said with a grin, "and I feel as though the big fellow's up there looking after me."



I feel as though the big fellow's up there looking after me, says Rochdale's player-coach, Deryck Fox

Andrew Varley

LINGFIELD

HYPERION
1.40 Red Brook 2.10 PAGANONI (nap)
2.40 Majadou 3.10 Illuminati 3.40 Majors
4.10 Guido 4.40 Musical Sting (nb)

GOING: Soft (Heavy in places).
1. Left-hand, undulating course.
2. Course is SE of town on B2028. Lingfield station (served by London Victoria) is 1.5 miles from the course. Admissions: One enclosure £10. CAR PARK: £2.50. Refreshments: £1.50. **TRAINING:** 1.10-1.20. 1.20-1.30. 1.30-1.40. 1.40-1.50. 1.50-2.00. 2.00-2.10. 2.10-2.20. 2.20-2.30. 2.30-2.40. 2.40-2.50. 2.50-3.00. 3.00-3.10. 3.10-3.20. 3.20-3.30. 3.30-3.40. 3.40-3.50. 3.50-4.00. 4.00-4.10. 4.10-4.20. 4.20-4.30. 4.30-4.40. 4.40-4.50. 4.50-5.00. 5.00-5.10. 5.10-5.20. 5.20-5.30. 5.30-5.40. 5.40-5.50. 5.50-6.00. 6.00-6.10. 6.10-6.20. 6.20-6.30. 6.30-6.40. 6.40-6.50. 6.50-7.00. 7.00-7.10. 7.10-7.20. 7.20-7.30. 7.30-7.40. 7.40-7.50. 7.50-8.00. 8.00-8.10. 8.10-8.20. 8.20-8.30. 8.30-8.40. 8.40-8.50. 8.50-9.00. 9.00-9.10. 9.10-9.20. 9.20-9.30. 9.30-9.40. 9.40-9.50. 9.50-10.00. 10.00-10.10. 10.10-10.20. 10.20-10.30. 10.30-10.40. 10.40-10.50. 10.50-11.00. 11.00-11.10. 11.10-11.20. 11.20-11.30. 11.30-11.40. 11.40-11.50. 11.50-12.00. 12.00-12.10. 12.10-12.20. 12.20-12.30. 12.30-12.40. 12.40-12.50. 12.50-1.00. 1.00-1.10. 1.10-1.20. 1.20-1.30. 1.30-1.40. 1.40-1.50. 1.50-2.00. 2.00-2.10. 2.10-2.20. 2.20-2.30. 2.30-2.40. 2.40-2.50. 2.50-3.00. 3.00-3.10. 3.10-3.20. 3.20-3.30. 3.30-3.40. 3.40-3.50. 3.50-4.00. 4.00-4.10. 4.10-4.20. 4.20-4.30. 4.30-4.40. 4.40-4.50. 4.50-5.00. 5.00-5.10. 5.10-5.20. 5.20-5.30. 5.30-5.40. 5.40-5.50. 5.50-6.00. 6.00-6.10. 6.10-6.20. 6.20-6.30. 6.30-6.40. 6.40-6.50. 6.50-7.00. 7.00-7.10. 7.10-7.20. 7.20-7.30. 7.30-7.40. 7.40-7.50. 7.50-8.00. 8.00-8.10. 8.10-8.20. 8.20-8.30. 8.30-8.40. 8.40-8.50. 8.50-9.00. 9.00-9.10. 9.10-9.20. 9.20-9.30. 9.30-9.40. 9.40-9.50. 9.50-10.00. 10.00-10.10. 10.10-10.20. 10.20-10.30. 10.30-10.40. 10.40-10.50. 10.50-11.00. 11.00-11.10. 11.10-11.20. 11.20-11.30. 11.30-11.40. 11.40-11.50. 11.50-12.00. 12.00-12.10. 12.10-12.20. 12.20-12.30. 12.30-12.40. 12.40-12.50. 12.50-1.00. 1.00-1.10. 1.10-1.20. 1.20-1.30. 1.30-1.40. 1.40-1.50. 1.50-2.00. 2.00-2.10. 2.10-2.20. 2.20-2.30. 2.30-2.40. 2.40-2.50. 2.50-3.00. 3.00-3.10. 3.10-3.20. 3.20-3.30. 3.30-3.40. 3.40-3.50. 3.50-4.00. 4.00-4.10. 4.10-4.20. 4.20-4.30. 4.30-4.40. 4.40-4.50. 4.50-5.00. 5.00-5.10. 5.10-5.20. 5.20-5.30. 5.30-5.40. 5.40-5.50. 5.50-6.00. 6.00-6.10. 6.10-6.20. 6.20-6.30. 6.30-6.40. 6.40-6.50. 6.50-7.00. 7.00-7.10. 7.10-7.20. 7.20-7.30. 7.30-7.40. 7.40-7.50. 7.50-8.00. 8.00-8.10. 8.10-8.20. 8.20-8.30. 8.30-8.40. 8.40-8.50. 8.50-9.00. 9.00-9.10. 9.10-9.20. 9.20-9.30. 9.30-9.40. 9.40-9.50. 9.50-10.00. 10.00-10.10. 10.10-10.20. 10.20-10.30. 10.30-10.40. 10.40-10.50. 10.50-11.00. 11.00-11.10. 11.10-11.20. 11.20-11.30. 11.30-11.40. 11.40-11.50. 11.50-12.00. 12.00-12.10. 12.10-12.20. 12.20-12.30. 12.30-12.40. 12.40-12.50. 12.50-1.00. 1.00-1.10. 1.10-1.20. 1.20-1.30. 1.30-1.40. 1.40-1.50. 1.50-2.00. 2.00-2.10. 2.10-2.20. 2.20-2.30. 2.30-2.40. 2.40-2.50. 2.50-3.00. 3.00-3.10. 3.10-3.20. 3.20-3.30. 3.30-3.40. 3.40-3.50. 3.50-4.00. 4.00-4.10. 4.10-4.20. 4.20-4.30. 4.30-4.40. 4.40-4.50. 4.50-5.00. 5.00-5.10. 5.10-5.20. 5.20-5.30. 5.30-5.40. 5.40-5.50. 5.50-6.00. 6.00-6.10. 6.10-6.20. 6.20-6.30. 6.30-6.40. 6.40-6.50. 6.50-7.00. 7.00-7.10. 7.10-7.20. 7.20-7.30. 7.30-7.40. 7.40-7.50. 7.50-8.00. 8.00-8.10. 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Drugs in sport: Samaranch tries to defend doping loophole but final declaration proves unacceptable to ministers

Politicians object to IOC proposals

THE "CLEAR MESSAGE" which the International Olympic Committee hoped to send out from its World Conference on Doping in Sport became one of confusion and uncertainty yesterday, even though it was confirmed that a \$25m (£15.6m) anti-doping agency would be established in time for the 2000 Olympics.

The IOC received an embarrassing clear message from attending governments that its final declaration on doping was not acceptable, and may even have helped those who sought to cheat. It was not what an organisation struggling to improve an image tarnished by recent scandals over corruption wanted to hear.

Britain's minister for sport, Tony Banks, speaking on behalf

BY MIKE ROWBOTTOM
in Lausanne

of his 14 fellow European Union sports ministers, refused to endorse the document in its current form. Banks's objections, which he said were shared by government representatives from the United States, Australia, New Zealand, Norway and others, centred on a loophole left in the sanctions for doping abuse, and the composition of the body which will oversee the new anti-doping agency.

Although the IOC have adopted a minimum two-year ban for first doping offences, they have left in the possibility of competitors escaping the ban in "exceptional circumstances", following resistance

from the world governing bodies of football and cycling.

The beleaguered IOC president, Juan Antonio Samaranch, said the additional clause was necessary because of the risk of legal challenge, and added "it was very important to keep the unity of all international federations within the Olympic Movement". Banks described the sanctions as "minimalist and permissive", saying the wording undermined the effectiveness of the intended ban.

"I see no reason why, in the face of what they might see as problems, the IOC then starts defeating the purpose," Banks said. "They really have to say, 'this is what we're going for' and consult and then test it."

"If they are going to say, 'we're not sure we can ever get

this through, therefore we're not going to do it', that is not the way to make legislation. There are those who say this has actually weakened the position on doping." He added that it would be down to governments to establish their own legislation on doping offences.

"This issue is bigger than the IOC, although it might be a surprise for them to see something larger than themselves," Banks said. "IOC members have been a little stunned by the intervention of governments in this, but they could expect no less. You can't invite government ministers to a conference and expect them to just sit there and applaud politely."

The IOC's original proposals over the constitution of the 15-strong council to direct the

anti-doping agency have also met with firm resistance from attending ministers, and the assumption that Samaranch would chair the council has been flatly contradicted.

"We weren't happy with having representatives from sponsors and the pharmaceutical industry on the council," Banks said. "And it would be better for the IOC not to be in the chair. This is not a declaration which we accept as being an end. It is a first step."

A working party involving Olympic and government representatives will meet within three months to determine the structure and financing of the agency.

Samaranch insisted that the declaration amounted to a "message of hope" for the

Olympic family. In defence of the wording of the sanction he cited a hypothetical comparison between an experienced 30-year-old athlete caught doping, and a 15-year-old who might have been "manipulated by his entourage". The 78-year-old president deflected the question of whether he was willing to accept that he should not chair the council directing the new anti-doping agency. "I'm not saying this now. The person will be a person elected by the council."

Rumours persist that Samaranch has had to compromise the changes made to the process of selecting host cities for the Games that were made here last month in the glare of world publicity.

The revolt of 50 IOC members protesting against the re-

moval of their voting rights is believed to have been headed off by an informal agreement that the 15-strong body charged with selecting the site of the 2000 Winter Olympics will only whittle the six contenders down to two, and the rank and file of the IOC will then vote for their choice.

There is a similar sense of uncertainty yesterday over the future of the GH2000 project, to which the IOC has contributed \$1m over the last four years.

A research team led by Professor Peter Sonksen, of St Thomas's Hospital, has arrived at what it believes is a reliable test to determine illegal use of human growth hormone.

But Prince Alexandre de Merode, the director of the IOC medical commission, said that a further \$5m would be re-

quired to verify the findings, and indicated that blood testing - on which the method is based - would only be carried out for research purposes at the 2000 Olympics.

Sonksen, however, said yesterday that the test could be in place in time for Sydney. "This is the second stage of the operation," he said, adding that he remained optimistic after the positive response the IOC medical commission had given to his full report.

The most succinct IOC response of the day came from Senegal's Keba Mbaye, when asked by a reporter whether the phrase "exceptional circumstances" referred to any highly paid professional athlete. "No," Mbaye replied. It remains to be seen if he is right.

Nothing grim about Buckley's Grimsby Town

After a rough time at The Hawthorns, the Mariners' manager is back among old friends. By Guy Hodgson

IF THERE is one sign guaranteed to provoke mirth and derision in visiting football supporters, it is the one saying "Great Grimsby" which greets you as you enter the town on the A180, Grimsby? No wonder they put Greater before London and Manchester.

After all, it is 50 years since Grimsby Town were in the top division and it was the 1990s when they came closest to a major honour, twice reaching the semi-finals of the FA Cup. No, the tag "great" does not sit easily at Blundell Park.

Make that "promising", however, and you are nearer the mark, because the way things are progressing Grimsby could make it to the First Division play-offs this season. And in that situation, as Charlton Athletic could testify, who knows?

Grimsby have taken 19 out of their last 24 points and are currently just outside the play-off places which, on average home gates of less than 7,000 - worse even than those of cash-strapped Oxford United - is little short of a wonder. Tomorrow they meet Bolton in what should be a litmus test of their promotion credentials.

Alan Buckley, the manager working this minor miracle, does have previous form. He was successful at Walsall, took Grimsby from the Fourth Division to the Second in his first spell at Blundell Park and, last season, he guided the club to Wembley for the first and second times, winning the Auto Windscreen Shield and promotion via the play-offs in the process.

"If I had come here and been stupid enough to predict what would happen in either spell they would have thought it was a fairytale," Buckley said. "You couldn't have scripted it. It's cuckoo-land stuff."

For a sport that has resided

too long in cuckoo and karma land this week, it is a relief the story line is football-related. Buckley was tempted away from Grimsby by West Bromwich Albion in 1994, lost his powers to amaze at The Hawthorns, and then picked them up again as soon as he walked through the doors back at Blundell Park.

Which wholly confounds the theory you should never return in football. "Who says you shouldn't come back?" Buckley asked, with some vehemence. "Someone has dug that out from somewhere and no one knows who it is. Ask Graham

'We out-footballed West Brom and afterwards there was a guy asking: "Can you do a piece for ITV?" It's a two-word answer, isn't it?'

Taylor: "Should you go back? You look at what's happened to Watford since he returned there."

"Grimsby is not how it sounds, grim. Lots of people come here and never want to leave the place. My lads grew up here, my wife loved it, she was very settled, so in a sense it was like coming back home. Obviously I came back for the football but it's a nice place to live."

Why did he leave then? "At the time it came at the wrong or the right time, depending how you look at it," he replied. "I felt Grimsby and I had gone as far as we could. We were established in the First Division, I could never see us in the Premiership and there was the challenge of a bigger club. But,

as Kevin Keegan said once, it wasn't like it read in the brochure."

His two years at The Hawthorns rankle both with Buckley and supporters, who regard matches between the clubs with almost derby hostility. Most of all, it irks him that the legend has gone around that he was a failure there.

"You read it in programmes when you visit grounds: 'After a horrendous time at West Brom...', but was it? Have a look at the League table in October 1994 and see where the club were in the First Division. They were on their way down."

"We weren't relegated, in my only full season there we finished 11th, which was their best position for 10 years and even when I was sacked they were 15th. It ranks me that I seem to be considered a walking disaster."

The West Midlands media, which he believes has peddled the myth, irks even more so and he refused all requests for interviews after Saturday's game at West Brom. "A club loses three games over there and Central TV is in the pub asking supporters what they think of the manager. They were digging for negatives all the time."

"We out-footballed West Brom on Saturday and there was a guy who came to the dressing room asking: 'Can you do a piece for ITV?' It's a two-word answer, isn't it? I'm not a hypocrite so sooner than have an argument I'd rather keep out of the way. I didn't go into the press room either: why should I give them something to write?"

Ouch. You do not read psychology qualifications to see Buckley is happier at Grimsby, where he has revised his opinions about where the club could go. "I was wrong that first time.



Alan Buckley outside Blundell Park: 'It's cuckoo-land stuff'

Andrew Varley

We used to beat Barnsley home and away and yet, two years later they were in the Premiership. So if they could do it, so could Grimsby. You never know. "I don't think the current Grimsby side play as good, pure football as previous ones

but we're harder to beat. That's a little unfair to the lads, who are honest pros who work very hard for the club, but you have to understand I have been here 18 months this time while I had been here six-and-a-half years before. Judge us in five years."

So far the verdict has been favourable, and should the club eventually reach the Premiership that verdict will better still. They say greatness comes to those who wait - and Grimsby have been waiting for a long time.

Gregory stays at Villa Park insists Ellis

BY ALAN NIXON

JOHN GREGORY has become the latest manager to be ruled out as a contender to replace Glenn Hoddle as England coach - although it was by his chairman at Aston Villa, Doug Ellis. Ellis said that Gregory, who will celebrate 12 months in charge at Villa Park this month, has told him he does not want to be considered for the post.

"He is committed to us as we are committed to him and hopefully he will be our manager for many years to come," Ellis said.

Ellis, who sits on the committee that has to appoint a new England coach, added: "Even if they did come, the answer would be 'No'."

The French national coach, Roger Lemerre, unsurprisingly refused to become embroiled in Hoddle's sacking yesterday. Lemerre said personal experience had taught him not to take England lightly, managerless or not.

"I know the reason why it has happened but I do not want to comment on it," Lemerre said, after naming a squad for next Wednesday's game at Wembley that includes the Arsenal trio, Nicolas Anelka, Emmanuel Petit and Patrick Vieira, and the Chelsea pair, Franck Lebeuf and Marcel Desailly. "When I played for France against England in 1969, the French national coach had resigned 10 days before the game. We went there with a different coach and we lost 5-0 so I have been through it as a player. It is difficult but England will always be England and this won't change them."

The Professional Footballers' Association has urged managers to attend its "charm school" to avoid another Glenn Hoddle farce.

"Everybody in the game accepts, like it or not, that the manager's job is a public relations role - be it with television, radio or newspapers," the FFA chief executive Gordon Taylor said. "We are looking to introduce the course to more senior professionals and, as all managers are former players, they would be fully entitled to take advantage of the course as well."

The former England striker side Raitt Rovers should survive the season after management took a voluntary pay-cut yesterday, and the players decided to forfeit win bonuses until the end of the season.

FRANCE SQUAD (by England, Wembley, 10 February): Barthez (Monaco), Poncelet (Nantes), Bouchet (Lyon), Cantelile (Roma), Desailly (Leeds), Digne (Lyon), Lemerre (France), Lizarazu (Bayern Munich), Thuram (Paris), Viala (Lyon), Zinedine Zidane (Juventus), Deshayes (Internationale), Pash, Vieira (both Arsenal), Anelka (Arsenal), Dugarry, Pirri (both Marseilles), Lestienne (Bordeaux).

Whyteleaf seek grand scalp

GEOFF CHAPPELLE was an expert at the art of FA Cup giant-killing during his time in charge of Woking, but in the FA Umbro Trophy he often finds himself in the reverse position: a manager guarding against an upset. That is the case tomorrow, when Chapple takes his Kingstonian side to Whyteleaf in the fourth round of the Trophy. The little Surrey club from the First Division of the Ryman League have reached the last 32 of the tournament for the first time in their history, and they are eager to put their name in the headlines.

Chapple won the Trophy three times in four years with Woking, but he has yet to make an impact in the competition with Kingstonian. Last season, his first with the club, they were knocked out at the first hurdle by Crawley.

The Ks beat the Conference leaders, Kettering Town, 5-2 in the last round to reach this stage, but Chapple is insisting that his players give Whyteleaf

NON-LEAGUE
NOTEBOOK

BY RUPERT METCALF

just as much respect as the high-flying Northamptonshire club. "It's a potential banana skin for us," he said, "and we must ensure we are in top form on the day."

Chapple's former club, Woking, entertain Rushden & Diamonds in one of two top ties between Nationwide Conference clubs. The other is at Whaddon Road, where Cheltenham Town, the Trophy holders, take on Stevenage Borough.

One of the more experienced sides from outside the Conference left in the Trophy are Ashton United, who are at home to St Albans City. The United League First Division outfit have four players aged 34 or older.

The oldest, the 39-year-old midfielder Stewart Anderson, is also a marathon runner. The Lancashire club's secretary,

Debbie Quille, said: "He can still outrun all the younger players in training - he's remarkably fit."

Anderson appeared at Wembley in the 1992 Trophy final for Witton Albion and the 1993 Vase final for Colne Dynamos. His fellow veterans at Ashton are the goalkeeper John McKenna, the player-manager John Coleman (both 36) and the latter's assistant and fellow striker, Jimmy Bell (34).

Another UniBond club, Lancaster City, lost their top scorer last month when Peter Thomson joined the Dutch side, NAC Breda, for a club-record five-figure fee. After scoring 24 goals for Lancaster this season, he hit two for Breda in a friendly in Spain during the Netherlands' winter break to seal his move.

Also exchanging the UniBond League for the European stage is Gainsborough Trinity's John Reed. The striker has signed for the Greek A Division side, Ethnikos Pi-

raeus, where the coach, Howard Kendall, was his manager at Sheffield United.

The most exotic recent non-League transfer, though, took Sufyan Ghazghazi from Dorchester Town to the Tunisian club, Club Africain, on loan for the rest of season. The former Exeter City forward, whose father was born in the north African country, will cost the Tunis team around £25,000 if the deal becomes permanent.

Kidderminster Harriers have confirmed Phil Mullen, formerly in charge of Redditch United, as their manager, in succession to Graham Allner. Jimmy Conway, who was briefly caretaker manager at Agghorogh, reverts to the No 2 role he held under Allner.

Harriers' Conference rivals, Telford United, have given their caretaker manager, Alan Lower, the job on a permanent basis. The former VS Rugby manager succeeded Jimmy Mullen at the Buck's Head last month.

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Resort	Area open	Comment	Slopes Lwr	(cm) Up	Last snow	Temp	Forecast
ANDORRA							
Solducre	100%	Great skiing	80	100	17.1	-4C	Changeable
AUSTRIA							
Klaus	95%	Gt skiing high up	50	100	29.1	-3C	Changeable
Mayrhofen	98%	Gt skiing high up	40	140	04.2	-2C	Changeable
ITALY							
Pamporova	100%	Fresh snow	55	75	04.2	-4C	Cloudy
CANADA							
Whistler	100%	Packed snow	290	340	01.2	-2C	Snow showers
FRANCE							
Les Gets	90%	Gd upper runs	90	370	29.1	-12C	Overcast
Tignes	85%	Great conditions	90	230	29.1	-10C	Changeable
SWITZ							
Alagna	80%	Gt skiing high up	50	100	29.1	-1C	Changeable
Courmayeur	100%	Good conditions	70	130	29.1	-8C	Changeable
NORWAY							
Hemstedal	100%	Good conditions	50	40	28.1	-2C	Cloudy
SCOTLAND							
Gairmgarth	0%	Snow drifting in	20	45	04.2	-1C	Snow strms
SWITZERLAND							
Klosters	100%	Excellent skiing	60	180	29.1	-2C	Cold
UNITED STATES							
Marathon	100%	Powder	240	300	01.2	2C	Cloudy

Information supplied by Ski Hotline

TODAY'S FIXTURES	
FOOTBALL	
NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE	
FIRST DIVISION	
Bristol City v QPR (7.45)	
SECOND DIVISION	
Colchester v York (7.45)	
THIRD DIVISION	
Swansea v Brighton (7.45)	
JERSEY SENIOR LEAGUE Premier Division	
Dieppe v Newmarket v Feltham (7.45)	
RUGBY LEAGUE	
FRIENDLY MATCH: Sheffield v Hull (7.30)	
RUGBY UNION	
7.0 unless stated	
A INTERNATIONAL: Ireland A v France A (5.0) (at Donnybrook, Dublin); Scotland A v Wales A (at Murrayfield, Edinburgh)	
UNDER-21 INTERNATIONALS: Ireland Under-21 v France Under-21 (at Maynooth Park, Co. Wick); Scotland Under-21 v Wales Under-21 (at Bridgehead, Strirling)	
REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Scottish Districts v Cravenhams Welsh XV (5.30) (at Ayrshire)	
BASKETBALL	
BUSINESSMEN LEAGUE: Leicester Riders v Birmingham Bullets (8.0); Sheffield Sharks v Chester Jets (7.45)	
OTHER SPORTS	
SQUASH: British Closed Championships (Manchester)	
BADMINTON: English National Championships (Haywards Heath)	

Player criticises modern coaches

OVER-COACHING has destroyed some of the finest golfers in the world, including Nick Faldo and Ian Baker-Finch, according to Gary Player. The South African, in Sydney for the Greg Norman Holden International in Sydney yesterday, believes that modern-day coaches are brainwashing players and removing the art of playing on instinct.

"These coaches are like they are around these guys," he said. "They are on the practice tee, the chipping green, the bunkers, the putting green. Now when the bell rings, man, these guys can't go on. They are saying 'where's my coach'."

Player, 63, said he did not agree with coaches travelling constantly with competitors and cited Faldo and Baker-Finch as severe cases of "paralysis-by-analysis."

"I see what's happened to Nick Faldo. Here was the world's greatest player. Now the guy can't play at all," he said. "When he makes a cut I'm astounded."

"You know how good Ian Baker-Finch was. This is one of the saddest things I ever saw in golf. This guy was one of the top 20 best players in the world. The guy can't play at all. I mean they go from champion golfer to rank bad golfer."

Until recently Faldo was coached by David Leadbetter, whom he credited with helping him win six majors, but Faldo has dipped dramatically in the world rankings, failing to win on the US tour in two years.

Baker-Finch, the 1991 Open champion, no longer plays tournament golf after a disastrous slump in form.

"They get over-coached," said Player, who has never had a regular coach and won nine majors, including three Opens and three US Masters.

"The players are being brainwashed. It's not just hitting a golf ball that wins a tournament. That's only 10 per cent of it. You have to trust your own instinct."



The departing seagulls fail to distract Australia's Jarrod Moseley and his caddy in the Greg Norman Holden International in Sydney yesterday

Adam Pretty/Allsport

Storm too near for Westwood

A LITTLE too close for comfort was the verdict of Lee Westwood and Darren Clarke yesterday, as lightning forced the first round of the Benson and Hedges Malaysian Open to be halted.

Their relief at reaching the safety of the clubhouse was nothing compared to that of the Doug Walker doting caddy, who was sent for an ambulance when he felt an electric shock strike his back. But Oberhofer

GOLF
BY MARK GARROD
in Kuala Lumpur

assured the medical personnel that he felt fine and was suffering no ill-effects.

The tournament director, David Garland, said that it may have been a build-up of static rather than an actual strike which Oberhofer experienced.

Westwood described it as "ridiculous" that he and 55 other players were still on the

course when the decision to suspend play was taken late in the afternoon.

"We were on the 15th tee, which is just about the most exposed and open spot on the whole course, and we then heard that somebody had been struck just below us," he said.

"That was very close," added Clarke, who was playing in the match immediately behind.

Another relieved player was John Bickerton, who has twice been struck by lightning during his career. After two sevens in

an outward 40, he had fought his way back to level par and was on his final hole when play was called off and he could take cover.

Spectators were killed by strikes at a US Open and a US PGA championship earlier this decade and Lee Trevino is among other players to have been hit in the past.

Valen Tan, the tournament director for the Asian Tour - jointly running the event with the European Tour - said hooters were sounded the

moment that the lightning device on the clubhouse roof registered a strike within a five to 10-mile radius.

Westwood and Clarke, both making their first appearances of the season, will resume their rounds at 8am today with a lot of ground to make up.

Westwood, the world No 6, is three-under-par with four to play and Clarke two-over after 13 holes.

The lead was established early in the day - before the humidity which preceded the

storm became a real factor - by the American Christian Peña and China's Zhang Lian-wei, both of whom had six-under-par rounds of 66.

Peña and Zhang are one ahead of the Filipino Frankie Moreno and another American based on the Asian Tour, Gerry Norquist. He still has the par five 18th to complete.

The leading British player is David Howell, at three-under with two to go. Westwood's new brother-in-law, Andrew Coltart, is in with a 70.

Westwood confessed to feeling rusty as he three-putted the second and third greens. He turned with a tally of 57, double-bogeyed the short 12th, birdied the next, but then dropped another shot just before the suspension.

Taiwan's Lu Wen-teh holed-in one at the 216-yard second on his way to a level par 71, but missed out on a special prize. A Jaguar car is on offer at the 16th - and any player achieving an ace on the 12th wins his weight in whisky.

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ATHLETICS

The new governing body for athletics in Britain, UK Athletics, has confirmed that the inquiry into the Doug Walker doping allegations will be dealt with through a private committee. In a press statement issued yesterday, UK Athletics said: "It has been agreed between the British Athletic Federation and UK Athletics that UK Athletics will assume responsibility for handling all procedures relating to the adverse findings in the sample of Doug Walker."

BASKETBALL

Rod Strickland has agreed to a four-year, \$40m (£24.5m) contract with the Washington Wizards. The point guard will be available for their National Basketball Association opener at Indiana today.

EUROLEAGUE Second preliminary round: Group F: Ebas Pilsen (Fin) 83 Varese (It) 72; Group H: Villeneuve (Fr) 69 Zadar (Cro) 61.

WEDNESDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Bundesliga: Manchester Giants 87 Edinburgh 85; Thames Valley Tigers 84 Derby Storm 79; Worthing Bears 81 London Towers 84.

BOWLS

Jonathan Forey continued his remarkable run in his home town of Llanelli yesterday when he moved through to the semi-finals of the Welsh Masters. Forey won the Welsh title on Tuesday to earn a place in the Masters and then beat the world champion, Alex Marshall, on Wednesday. Yesterday he beat John Price, the defending champion, 7-5 7-6.

BOXING

Wayne McCullough from Belfast will make a second consecutive world title challenge against the Mexican, Erik Morales, for the World Boxing Council super-bantamweight title on 5 May in Las Vegas. McCullough said: "We have already agreed to fight and we are waiting for them to finalise their part."

CRICKET

Chris Adams, the Sussex captain, could see out his career at the club after he was offered a new five-year contract. Tony Poffitt, the club's chief executive, said: "Chris is a player that wants to sign him up, he is very keen as well. We have made him an offer and it's up to him to come back."

Mark Taylor, the recently retired Australian Test captain, made an Inauspicious return to Sheffield Shield action yesterday, making just nine runs for Souths against Victoria in Queensland. His dismissal triggered a collapse by the NSW batsmen as they were all out for 106 on the first day of the first game. Despite a late comeback, they lost to the plucky Queensland all-out struggle, closing the day on 159 for 7.

SHEFFIELD SHIELD (First day of four matches) New South Wales 106 Victoria 138 for 7; Adelaide Victoria 214 (M T Elliott 54, B Hodge 54, J Scudliffe 4-42); Queensland 25 for 1; Hobart: Western Australia 29 for 5; Kardinia 118 Tasmania.

FOOTBALL

Alan Maybury, Leeds' 20-year-old Republic of Ireland international defender, has joined the Scottish Premier League club Dunfermline on loan until the end of the season.

Kyle Borrelli, the Lyons reserve goalkeeper, has been killed in a car accident. Borrelli, who was 33, crashed into the back of a lorry on the highway from Paris to Lyons on Wednesday. His car caught fire and he was unable to escape. Marseille-born Borrelli joined Lyons last year. He previously played for Paris St Germain and Toulon, with whom he made his first Division debut in October.

EUROPEAN SQUAD (International) v France, Paris (Paris, Tuesday): Ball (England), Barry (Aston Villa), Barmby (Sheff Wed), Barmby (Leeds), Bridges (Sunderland), Brown (Man Utd), Brown (Sheff Wed), Brown (Man Utd), Cresswell (Nott), Gash, Greening (Nott Man Utd), Hendrie (Aston Villa), Hogg (Sheff Wed), Hogg (Aston Villa), Jones (West Ham), J Marshall (Nott), Morris (Chelsea), Mullins (Crystal Palace), O'Connell (Sheff Wed), O'Connell

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Total Sales: £28,769,864. Prize Fund: £12,946,349 (45% of ticket sales).			
CATEGORY	NO. OF WINNERS	AMOUNT FOR EACH WINNER	TOTAL EACH TIER
Match 6 (Jackpot)	2	£2,099,216	£4,198,432
Match 5 plus bonus ball	11	£117,435	£1,291,785
Match 5	548	£2,473	£1,345,304
Match 4	26,892	£69	£1,865,232
Match 3	487,423	£10	£4,874,230
TOTALS	514,696		£12,946,760

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SPORT

VILLEPREUX KING OF FRANCE P23 • BUCKLING DOWN AT GRIMSBY P28

Gullit takes his outlay to £15m

RUUD GULLIT took his spending to £15m in five months yesterday as he signed Croatia's influential World Cup midfielder, Silvio Maric, for £3.3m.

The 24-year-old Croatia Zagreb player is due to fly to Tyne-side today to undergo a medical and complete the deal - a three-and-a-half year contract worth £20,000 per week, according to reports in Croatia.

The move is dependent on Maric receiving a work permit, but both clubs are confident that there will be no hitches. The deal includes a sell-on clause and the promise of a friendly between the two sides later this year.

Maric is Gullit's third major signing since taking over at St James's Park last August. The former Chelsea manager, who made it clear from the start that he would be looking to bring in new players, signed Duncan Ferguson for £7m from Everton and then Didier Drogba from Paris St-Germain for £4.5m. Maric's signing indicates that Gullit is happy to keep looking abroad for new players - as he did at Stamford Bridge - even though this might not bode well for some established players at Newcastle.

Maric's arrival might cast doubt over the future of the club

FOOTBALL
BY NICK HARRIS

captain Rob Lee, who has been the subject of intense speculation in recent weeks.

The England international has not started a game since the 3-0 home defeat by Leeds on Boxing Day after suffering a troublesome Achilles injury. He has been linked with moves to his former club, Charlton, as well as West Ham and Southampton, and yesterday's signing will have done nothing to make him feel more secure in the north-east.

Zagreb's executive director Damir Vrbancic said yesterday: "We have finished negotiations today and Silvio Maric will be a Newcastle player."

"He will join Newcastle tomorrow for a medical examination and for other formalities. We will wait until the work permit is issued by the UK and then sign the contract on the conditions which were agreed today."

Zagreb agreed the transfer reluctantly after Maric, who played four times in the World Cup as Croatia reached the semi-finals, took advantage of a clause in his contract which allowed him to move if the right offer came along. "We

didn't want to lose him," admitted Vrbancic. "We really didn't want to sell him."

"We're not happy, we're definitely not happy. Silvio Maric is absolutely one of the best players in the Croatian league."

Maric - who impressed during his club's two-leg European Champions' League qualifier defeat by Newcastle last season - is a strong running attacking player. He is likely to be given a creative role in midfield to create chances for Ferguson and Alan Shearer, whose partnership has yet to produce much evidence that it will be as devastating as touted.

"We have been watching Silvio Maric for three years," the Newcastle director Freddy Shepherd said yesterday. "We are very happy today to be here to sign him because he will be a valuable member of the squad."

Another player who is likely to remain in the Newcastle squad a while longer is John Barnes, who returned to the club after a brief trial at Charlton. A permanent move has not been ruled out but the Charlton manager, Alan Curbishley, has yet to decide whether to make a bid for the 35-year-old, saying that he would be watching a few matches this weekend before making a decision.

Tim Sherwood finally completed his move to Tottenham from Blackburn yesterday, in a four-year deal for a fee believed to be around £5m. He is likely to go straight into the squad for tomorrow's home game against Coventry.

Sherwood, 30, is ineligible to play for Spurs in the Worthington Cup semi-finals, having turned out for Blackburn in the competition earlier this season, but is available for the London team's FA Cup campaign, which reaches the fifth round stage against their manager George Graham's old club, Leeds United, at Elland Road a week tomorrow.

Graham said: "I'm delighted to get a quality player who will be a tremendous asset to the club. I believe he will form a great partnership in the middle of the park with Allan Nielsen and my other recent signing, Steffen Freund."

Bolton's Arnar Gunnlaugsson will join Leicester City in a £2.5m deal today after requesting a transfer because of a contract dispute. The Icelandic striker is expected to accept terms and sign for Martin O'Neill's team in time to be eligible to face Sheffield Wednesday tomorrow.

Gregory ruled out, page 28

Goram back for Scotland

BY SIMON BUCKLAND

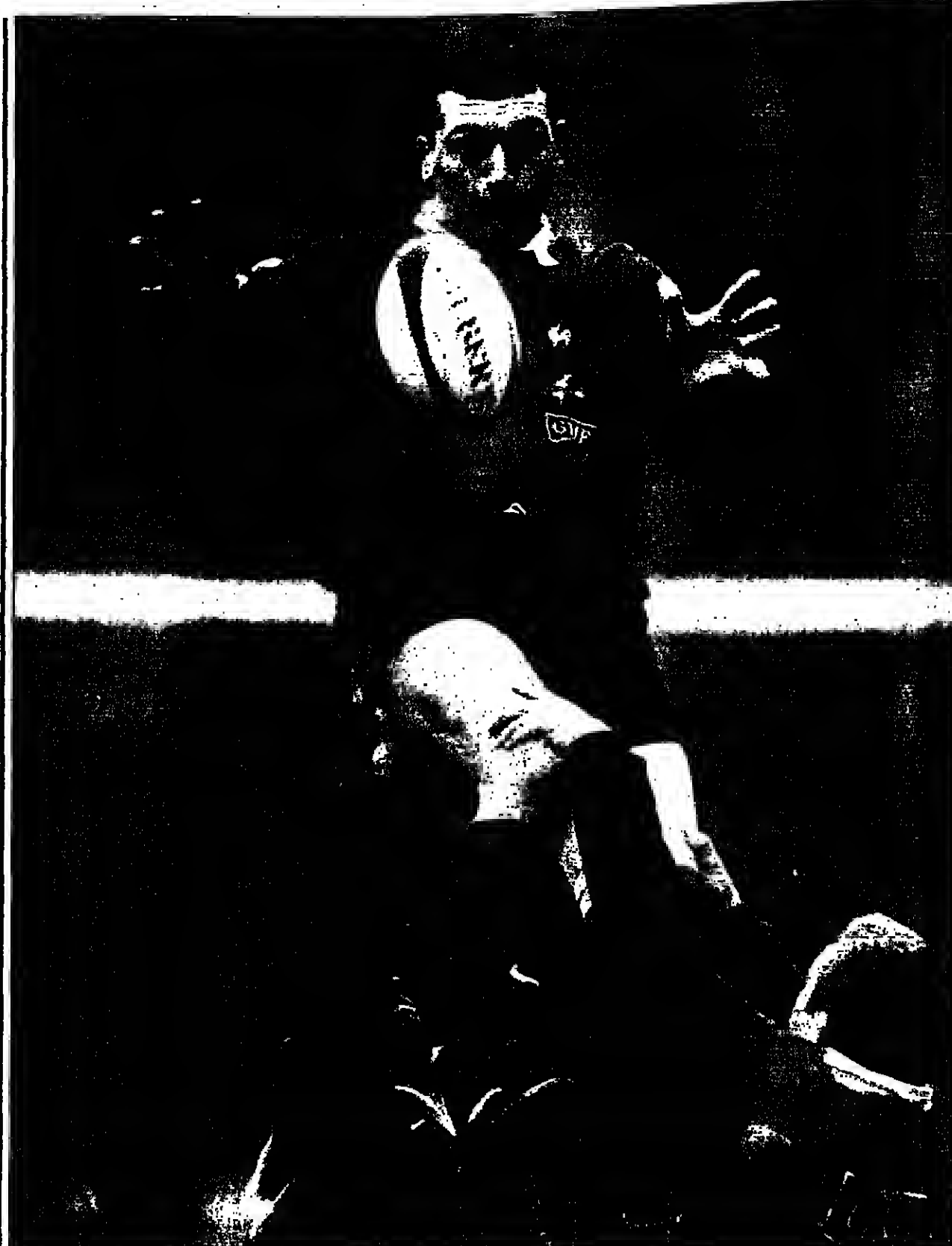
ANDY GORAM yesterday accepted the invitation of the Scotland manager, Craig Brown, to reverse his decision to retire from international football, as Brown denied there had ever been a fall-out between the two.

The 34-year-old goalkeeper, now playing for Motherwell, walked out of Scotland's training camp in the United States three weeks before last summer's World Cup, declaring he would never play international football again. However, after impressing Brown since signing for Motherwell a month ago, Goram accepted the chance to rejoin the international fold.

The decision to revive his Scotland career signals a sudden change of heart from Goram, who had only recently ruled out such a move.

"There was never any acrimony on my part because I accepted his reasons for leaving us when he was in America," Brown said. "It was always the case that if he felt differently then I would reconsider him, and when I spoke to him I put the matter to him again."

Goram looks certain to be recalled for the Euro 2000 qualifying double-header when the Scots meet Bosnia on 27 March and the Czech Republic four days later, both at home. Wimbledon's Neil Sullivan is likely to remain first-choice keeper.



France's Olivier Brouzet in training for tomorrow's game against Ireland

Michel Lipchitz/AP

Ireland ready for the battle

IRISH FORWARDS traditionally like to talk an ultra-physical game as a new Five Nations Championship draws near, and they nearly always play one, too.

But Paddy Johns, the cold-eyed Ulsterman who captains this season's emerald vintage, brought a whole new dimension to the pre-match psychological battle with the French yesterday by appearing at a Dublin press conference with his eyes already blackened. As a statement of intent, it spoke volumes.

Johns was quick to deny that the damage had been caused in an over-enthusiastic training session, explaining that the rearrangement of his delicate features had occurred during the pitched Tisdley's Bitter Cup battle between Saracens and Lydney in the Forest of Dean last Sunday. He was not at all keen to discuss his part in the rumour that led to him being manhandled by a member of the crowd, as well as half the Lydney pack. "To be sure, rugby's a game of physical

RUGBY UNION
BY CHRIS HEWETT
in Dublin

contact," he grinned before disappearing for a bite to eat.

Still, there was an unmistakable air of aggressive intent about the Irish as they worked themselves up for a second emotion-charged Lansdowne Road occasion in the space of seven days. "Ulster's success in the European Cup last weekend has raised huge expectations of the length and breadth of the country," affirmed Donal Lenihan, the national team manager, who played in the second row when his country last put one over the Tricolours in 1983.

"It is essential that we perform to the maximum of our ability and, to do that against a French side embarking on their quest for a triple Grand Slam, we must be prepared to taken them on up front. We must be ready for a very hard, physical encounter."

It will certainly be that, especially as the bull of Agen, Philippe Benetton, is now in the visitors' starting line-up tomorrow. The powerful blind-side flanker was promoted when Marc Lievreumont limped out of training with a strained thigh. Marc Reynaud takes Benetton's place on the bench.

Worryingly for the Irish, Emile Ntamack has not withdrawn. The knee he damaged while putting Italy to the sword in Genoa last weekend is said to be serviceable. "He's the big danger to us," said Warren Gatland, the Irish coach.

"If you relax for a moment and give a flanker like Ntamack some space, he'll score from anywhere," added Lenihan.

Scotland finally revealed their injury-riddled hand for tomorrow's opener with Wales at Murrayfield. Short of Jamie Murray, their muscular young outside centre, the selectors have asked Gregor Townsend to fill the hole.

"Gregor is a versatile operator and he has played a good deal of rugby in the No 13 shirt," said Jim Telfer, the Scottish coach. "He can beat a man in a one-on-one situation; he can probably do that better than Jamie, actually."

Jamie is more capable of breaking tackles, of running through people. Still, we can play in a variety of styles and we feel Gregor gives us a good many options in his current position."

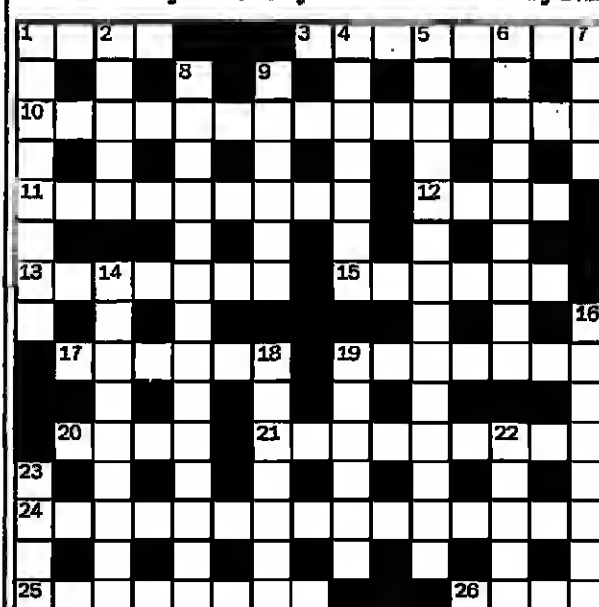
The New Zealand-born Leslie brothers, John and Martin, make their Five Nations debuts at inside centre and open-side flanker respectively. Gary Armstrong leads the side from scrum-half in the absence of the injured Bryan Redpath and Tom Smith, a central figure in Scottish plans, is fit to anchor the scrum at loose-head prop.

THE FRIDAY CROSSWORD

No.3838 Friday 5 February

by Phi

Thursday's solution



ACROSS

- 1 Black bird - it's needed for a pie? (4)
- 3 A good deal of suggestion associated with untillating sphere of entertainment (8)
- 10 Having a great success hijacking the RSC truck? (8,3,4)
- 11 Mode of transport suitable for disabled city chief executive (4-5)
- 12 Crowd were given information in speech (4)
- 13 Unusually cerulean, though not a Swiss lake (7)
- 15 Nothing found in American volume? Hang about (6)
- 17 Bill, in soft hat, is calm (6)

DOWN

- 19 Laugh? It's a job repressing hints of thoughtless laughter (7)
- 20 Girl left University more than once (4)
- 21 Shock about cut in pay award evaluation (9)
- 24 Plenty of scope for bringing down the wrath of the RSPCA? (4,2,5,1,3)
- 25 Team and staff going round a back way (4-4)
- 26 Tax the French (very heartless) (4)

- 6 Unpleasant and nasty banter about brass-play or missing note (9)
- 7 Blue feathers (4)
- 8 It's instrumental in rock formation (8,6)
- 9 Switching parts, to trick the new arrivals (6)
- 14 I'll do chue that's misleading for stuff in film (9)
- 16 Showing great devotion, disguising Tory sleaze (boundless) (8)
- 18 Source of water no longer connected to main? (4,3)
- 19 Match with pretty girl going round front of pitch (3-3)
- 22 Capital in South America, in more ways than one (5)
- 23 Greek god uncovers, taking off top (4)

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FRIDAY REVIEW

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המחיר הנמוך ביותר

Dish of the day

They said it wouldn't fly. But what did they know, says the man who launched it. Sky TV is 10 years old today

The phone rang as I arrived home at around 11pm after another long, gruelling Saturday at *The Sunday Times*. It was Rupert Murdoch calling from New York. He was eager to know if the Astra satellite, due to be launched that night by a European Ariane rocket from French Guiana and from whose transponders Sky TV was to beam four new channels to Britain, had made it into orbit. The launch had already been postponed 24 hours because of bad weather and technical problems. He sounded worried.

I told him I expected to hear at any moment. He called back again an hour later. There was still nothing for me to report. He sounded uncharacteristically jittery.

"You sound a bit nervous," I said tentatively.

"Andrew," he replied quietly, "I'm betting the whole company on this."

Even when, a few hours later on that December night in 1988, the rocket carried Astra to its parking space in geostationary orbit, 22,300 miles above Earth ("Thank God," said a relieved Rupert when I reported the good news, "I'm going to pour myself a large drink"), and early test transmissions revealed perfect sound and vision, the conventional wisdom among the wise and the worthy in Britain's media village was that Murdoch was going to lose his shirt. Most relished the prospect.

I had jumped at the chance to play my part in this multi-channel choice to British TV when Rupert asked me to become executive chairman of Sky to oversee its launch, because I believed the viewer would be better served if the BBC/ITV duopoly were broken. Established broadcasters and media pundits thought we were on a profligate mission impossible.

They claimed, incorrectly, that the only reason multi-channel cable TV had taken off in America was because terrestrial reception was so bad. They argued, with typical establishment complacency, that the quality and variety of programmes on the existing British channels was so superb that nobody would be prepared to pay for extra channels, especially in a country where people already had to stump up for the compulsory licence fee. They predicted that, with Murdoch behind it, Sky would equal trash TV. Their arguments look risible today. At the time, they created a poisonous atmosphere

which made the Sky launch, already a daunting task given its unpreparedness (the place was a shambles when I arrived, two months prior to its debut), all the more difficult.

Michael Grade and the other panjandrums of BBC and ITV sneered at the very thought of satellite TV. Maggie Brown, then this newspaper's media correspondent, was always solicitous on the phone, but never failed to stick in the knife in print. Even the estimable Ray Snooddy, the doyen of media reporters, opined that we were trying to do too much too quickly – and likely to fail. I came to regard media journalists as lower than crime reporters: they were regularly less reliable.

Given this hostile climate, Rupert and I decided on a low-key launch. It had been a mad rush and we were not sure it would all work on the day. Even as guests turned up at Sky's headquarters (a grand title for three sheds in a muddy field in an industrial estate in west London) for the final countdown, workers were still painting, fixing wires and installing equipment. Some facilities were not ready and we had to hire trucks with the necessary editing and broadcasting equipment and hide them round the back of the buildings.

It was a wet, grey day and we had to lay down wooden boards to carry our guests over the mud – they were hardly grand enough to merit a red carpet: the political and broadcasting establishment had decided to snub the Sky launch. John Birt, then deputy director-general of the BBC, was the honourable exception: he turned up to wish us well. The Labour Party boycotted the event.

The only senior Tory to attend was Norman Tebbit and he was on the payroll (as co-presenter, along with Austin Mitchell, of the political debate show *Turges*).

A few minutes before 6pm on 5 February 1988, Rupert and I stood on a platform in front of a collection of News International employees, a handful of well-wishers, and a posse of carping press praying for failure. I got rather carried away and began a New Year-style countdown; everybody joined in. As the last few seconds ticked away, I caught Rupert's eye. There was fear in both our faces: if nothing happened we were about to be destroyed by the whole non-Murdoch media.

But at precisely 6pm all four channels – Sky One, Sky News, Sky Movies and Eurosport – illuminated the terminals around us with clear, bright pic-

tures and strong sound. "Welcome to the first day of the rest of your lives," said John O'Loan, the taciturn Annsie who headed the news operation, to his people in the Sky News gallery. It had taken Britain 60 years to get four national channels; we had doubled that number in under six months. A new era in British broadcasting had begun.

It was long after I had returned full time to *The Sunday Times*—and only after the spilling of much red ink—before Sky was perceived to be a success. Today it has over 6 million subscribers (almost 30 per cent of the UK's television-owning homes, which is close to US levels of penetration at the equivalent stage in multi-channel TV) and generates annual revenues of £1.4bn, making it the most profitable satellite TV service in the world.

It has become a success by revolutionising the coverage of sport on TV, controlling the pay-TV rights to almost all of Hollywood's movie output and offering a choice and variety of channels - news, cartoons, documentaries, entertainment, history, wildlife - unimaginable 10 years ago. To the best

BY ANDREW NEIL

public-service TV in the world has been grafted the widest choice of channels outside America. Both types of TV are flourishing (I always argued that Sky was an addition to established TV, not a replacement for it). The British viewer has never been better served.

So much for what the critics said a decade ago. They remain amazingly reluctant to admit just how wrong they were. In a chirlish piece in London's *Evening Standard* on Wednesday, Jon Snow of *Channel 4 News* asserted that "Sky actually made very little of its content beyond the sport". Strange for a newsman to ignore the substantial output of Sky News, which broadcasts round the clock and is 90 per cent home-made.

Snow concedes that Sky News is "good, if safe" (now there's faint praise for you) but says that few ever watch it. As presenter of *Channel 4 News*, which has fewer viewers than any other terrestrial newscast, he should know about small audiences. But it is in the very nature of the 24-hour news channel that its audience at any one time is small; the weekly reach is in millions as people dip in and out.

and its influence (because it is watched by the rest of the media and other decision-takers) is greater than the small ratings suggest.

For years, British Sky News talked about the need for a "third force" in broadcast news to supplement the BBC and ITN. Channels 4 and 5 have failed to provide it—they took the cheap way out by using ITN—while GMTV (like TV-AM before it) does not have the news resources to be taken seriously. Sky News is that elusive third force, a reliable, respectable addition to the broadcasting firmament which has taught the BBC and ITN a thing or two about covering breaking news. I am proud to have been involved in its start-up and those in the BBC who enjoyed chucking at its rough edges in the early days should tell us why, almost a decade after Sky News had shown them how to do it, they made such a hash of the launch of their own News 24 last year).

"Instead of breaking brave new television ground," continues Snow, Murdoch has been going round "breaking old sports grounds". I appreciate that the traditionalists have always had an affection for grimy terraces. But even allowing for the liberal left's nostalgia for the cloth cap, this is a bizarre way to describe the entirely beneficial effect on football of Sky money, which has transformed shum grounds into proper all-seater stadia and turned the English Premier division into the most prosperous in the world.

But Snow is right to attack Sky's failure to make its mark in British-produced soaps, sitcoms and dramas. This was the issue over which I fell out with Murdoch back in 1990, when I left Sky. I urged him to begin investing in original British programming for Sky One. A channel scheduled solely on US imports, no matter how good (and some are very good), will never be a huge ratings success, I argued. But Murdoch has nothing but contempt for British drama and comedy, and refused to invest in it.

Elisabeth Murdoch is now supposedly putting that right, but so far the results have not been encouraging. Home-made shows like *Mixta Uncovered* could have been designed to prove the "trash TV" critics right all along. They belong more on late-Friday-night Channel 4 than on a TV service dedicated to popular, quality programming. But, like Home Box Office before it in America, Sky is getting into original film production, which is good news for the British film industry. If Sky One is ever to

rival ITV or BBC1, it has no alternative but to make more British programmes.

The same voices who predicted that Sky would be a spectacular failure are now saying it will fall flat on its face as it goes digital. Certainly, Sky will never again enjoy the competitive advantage it had from having the balls to be first in the marketplace. Its expensive drive to digitise its existing subscribers and attract many more will cut profits from a peak of over £300m to under half of that this year.

Those not noted for their financial nous have interpreted this as a clear sign that Sky is going to the dogs. In fact, all it means is that, once again, Murdoch is prepared to forgo short-term profits for the sake of long-term investment that is designed to reap huge future profits. British commentators are forever attacking the short-term horizons of British business; when Murdoch takes an appropriately long-term position, he is derided for it. How easily Murdoch discombobulates the brainless.

Though I have been *persona non grata* with Murdoch for four years and have no need to tout his case, my money is on Sky winning the digital race. Its main rival, ONdigital, may not be the expensive corporate lesson that BSB turned out to be when it took on Sky in the early days and lost; Gerry Robinson of Granada and Michael Green of Carlton, chairmen of ONdigital's major shareholders, are far more formidable businessmen than the numpies who ran BSB. But like BSB's before it, ONdigital's launch has been bedevilled by delays, technical problems and low take-up rates. As Sky powers past its initial targets for digital sign-ups, the presence of its rival in the marketplace is barely visible.

Henceforth Sky's strategy will be to increase penetration rather than maximise profits. The aim is to reach 10 million homes early in the next decade, which means the cost of subscribing will be capped or even cut. This will be costly, but the potential gains are enormous. To dominate the digital pay-TV market in over 50 per cent of British homes would turn Sky into an even bigger cash cow than it has been so far. Given their record for calling it wrongly, those who say Murdoch cannot succeed provide the most convincing reason for thinking that he can - and will.

Andrew Neil is editor-in-chief of 'The Scotsman' and 'Sunday Business'. He was executive chairman of Sky from 1988 to 1990

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Hoddle's offence

Sir: Wanted: new England manager. The successful applicant will have experience of manipulating the media, a perfect family life and no questionable friendships. He will not be involved in any potentially embarrassing financial or business dealings. A knowledge of football is desirable but not essential. Hindus, Buddhists or anyone with any religious beliefs to speak of need not apply.

PETER TROW
Fareham, Hampshire

Sir: I am very worried that a vengeful media, sanctimonious MPs and a spineless FA are able to suppress anyone's right to free speech. The Government and the press and television are the traditional guardians of our freedoms. I do not trust them with my freedom any longer.

What has happened to Glenn Hoddle could happen to any one of us if we do not toe the "correct" line. May our gods help us all.
MARGARET ALTON
Epsworth, Humberside

Sir: Mr Hoddle's views on the disabled are indefensible, but he is entitled to express them, even if the Prime Minister disagrees. Moreover, he will have a right to do so under the new Human Rights Act.

The Prime Minister's support for his dismissal comes perilously close to governmental interference with the right to free speech. It is one thing for the rest of us to preach at Mr Hoddle, but quite another for those in power to do so when a man's livelihood is at stake.
Professor A E BOYLE
Edinburgh

Sir: Glenn Hoddle has been forced to resign because of his religious views on the causes of disability. Tony Blair spoke in favour of the resignation because of the "offence" caused to disabled people. I am a full-time wheelchair user and I find Mr Blair's contribution by far the more offensive.

In opposition he voted three times to allow abortion up to the moment of birth for babies with congenital disabilities such as mine. Apparently in Blairland one must not speak ill of the disabled, but one may kill them with impunity.
ALISON DAVIS
Blandford Forum, Dorset

Sir: Glenn Hoddle's expression of unorthodox religious beliefs has been defended on the grounds of religious toleration. The British tradition of toleration owes its origins to the philosophical arguments of John Locke. Locke argues that we can never be sure that any religious view is false and so it is wrong to restrict a person's belief.

However, Locke circumscribes the right to religious toleration. Firstly, he limits toleration in cases where the expression of a religious belief is likely to be harmful or offensive to the commonwealth. It is for this reason that Locke withholds toleration from atheists and Catholics. Secondly, he argues that religious beliefs must stem from an individual's genuine concern with their spiritual well-being and a detailed consideration of the evidence available. All our religious beliefs must pass the test of reason. On these grounds Locke attacks the claims of "enthusiasts" who claim direct knowledge of God's divine will or sacrifice their judgement to the opinions of prophets or seers.

It seems to me that Mr Hoddle's comments fall foul of both the conditions Locke sets. As to the first, his comments were offensive to an important section of society. As to the second, it is possible that Hoddle's religious convictions stem from a genuine attempt to engage his rational faculties in the consideration of the nature and scope of faith. It seems far more likely, however, that Hoddle's views, characterised by a smorgasbord approach to faith, the dubious influence of Mrs Drewery, and an emphasis upon the power of spirituality over

reason, are closer to Locke's "enthusiasts".
ROBERT DAVIES
School of Philosophy
University of Leeds

Sir: Apparently some people think that Glenn Hoddle is entitled to his opinions and should not have been made to pay for comments made in public, but judged on the performance of the England team.

I wonder whether he would have been sacked last weekend if his comments had been racist or sexist. Of course he would have, and rightly so; yet the FA waited four days to make a decision. Discrimination against the disabled is seen as OK as long as you keep it to yourself. Disabled rights groups have a long way to go in this country before we catch up with Europe, and are light-years behind the US.

He was sacked because of poor performance on the pitch and his comments gave his enemies an opportunity to get rid of him.
NICK PHILLIPS
Salford, West Midlands

Sir: Despite suggestions that Glenn Hoddle has been denied the right of free speech and has been pilloried for his religious beliefs, the truth is that when he combines the two he has an uncanny knack of making crass, insensitive remarks that offend people. He was bound to drop the "big one" sooner or later.
N P HARDING
Hull

Sir: The saddest part of the Hoddle affair is that the persons most responsible for causing offence to the disabled have got away without any criticism. I refer to the Times journalist and his editor. If what Glenn Hoddle said was likely to cause offence, it was only when those views were blazoned across The Times that the offence was caused.
JOHN CHARMAN
London SW1

Sir: How would the tabloid press react if the prime minister of a Hindu or Buddhist country appeared on television to

encourage the sacking of his national football manager because he had expressed a belief in the Resurrection or the notion of Heaven and Hell? I fear it would be Tornadoes at dawn.
CHARLIE MCCORMICK
Geddington, Northamptonshire

Sir: Is the Oxford English Dictionary about to acquire a new word?

Hoddle, v. t. To sack or hound out of office for an error of judgement or personal peccadillo unrelated to that office.

(The word "hoddle" being more euphonious than say) "Mandelstam", "Robinson", "Whelan", "Davies" or "Spencer"; the latest batch to be hoddled or endure hoddlement.)
FARQUHARSON COUSINS
Harrow-on-the-Hill, Middlesex

Sir: Virtually six pages devoted to Glenn Hoddle on 3 February. Bring back news of the Royal Family!
JULIAN JACOBS
Wokingham, Berkshire

Criminal Cromwell

Sir: Antonia Fraser ("Heads, you win", 3 February) refers to Oliver Cromwell leading "military expeditions" against the Irish.

What that truly evil individual did is called genocide. Just read his own accounts of how he burnt

Sir: If John Andrews' report is correct that only one third of the population understands the meaning of "gross" and "net" interest ("An early start on the financial facts of life", 3 February), does not any government show an appalling abdication of responsibility by even contemplating holding a single currency referendum?
ELIZABETH FIDLEY
Lymington, Hampshire

Sir: There is at least one self-interested reason why we should all subsidise child-rearing (letter, 3 February). Even the childless rely on other people's children to give a return on their investments and pay their pensions in later life. However wealthy some of them may be, the over-40s are not self-sufficient.
DAVID WARD
Coldbeck, Cumbria

alive "near 1,000" Irish (the population of Ireland is estimated at 500,000) who had taken refuge in and around St Peter's Church, Drogheda. He even managed to ship thousands of Irish into slavery in the Caribbean.

Will British people ever have the honesty to call a spade a spade when it comes to their state's role in Ireland? The fact that that butcher is honoured in British society in 1999 shows how utterly oblivious most British people are to the misery their imperialism has caused in Ireland. It is akin to German people honouring Hitler for his economic wonders of the 1930s.

FINNEN Ó CUINN-DE TIÚIT
Cúige Laighean, Ireland

Sir: Thomas McPadden (letter, 29 January) fails to grasp the situation in Northern Ireland, when he differentiates between Sinn Féin and the IRA, the latter being "not a signatory to the agreement". The IRA and Sinn Féin are two sides of the same republican coin: Sinn Féin provides the public relations veneer to the IRA terror campaign whilst the IRA provides the threat of force needed to lend weight to Sinn Féin's political argument.

To Sinn Féin/IRA, the Good Friday agreement has presented carte blanche to tighten their grip on their communities through

intimidation and brutality whilst at the same time providing ministerial positions in the Northern Ireland executive. Why must the Government feel bound to preserve the "peace process" at all costs when British citizens in Ulster cannot rely on the Government to enforce the rule of law?
ANDREW ARCHER
London NW1

Spreading wealth

Sir: The Trade and Industry Secretary, Stephen Byers, suggests that wealth creation is more important than wealth redistribution, as if the two objectives were incompatible ("We are wealth creators now, says Labour", 2 February).

In reality, redistribution assists the creation of new wealth. It increases the power of poor people to spend (creating income and employment for others) and to save and invest. It helps them to rise in society and make fuller use of their natural ability, and ensures that society's rulers and managers are recruited from a wider spectrum of talent.

Finally, a more equal society can hope for long-term savings in public spending on the many social problems which are created or aggravated by inequality, especially in health, housing,

employment, welfare dependency and law and order.
RICHARD HELLER
London SW9

Sir: Professor Reich's assertion that "the global economy is rapidly approaching overcapacity" when a fifth of the world's population does not have enough to eat is an economic obscenity (The Global Crisis, 1 February).

Lack of demand in the world economy could be cured by paying people in the poorest countries more for their work. Our inflation is low and shops overstocked because so many people are paid less than £5 a day to produce the goods. But instead of paying more, the Western financial system forces the poor to cut wages (by devaluing) and to pay interest to the rich for unrepayable debts.
TITUS ALEXANDER
London E17

Breast is still best

Sir: It is misleading to imply that "enriched" formula milk may be as good as breast-feeding ("Brain food for babies", 2 February). There is no research to suggest this.

Professor Lucas's research merely shows that one kind of formula milk is even more inadequate for brain development than another kind. Manufacturers will never be able to duplicate breast milk because it is a live substance that changes constantly to match the baby's age and needs, and responds to each infection mother and baby are exposed to by providing antibodies specific to that particular infection.

The Independent's pro-bottle-feeding bias presumably stems from the idea that bottle-feeding liberates women. Bottle-feeding only liberates employers and the state from the burden of providing decent maternity leave and workplace creches, and relieves others of the "inconvenience" of welcoming babies wherever their mothers wish to go.
IMOGEN COOPER
Pitsea, Northamptonshire

Creature comforts

Sir: I cannot believe that Terence Blacker would have written of the Chipperfield case in so frivolous a manner if he had watched the video depicting "training" techniques ("Our phoney sentiments for animals", 2 February).

On what authority does Mr Blacker assert that "animal-lovers" are "indifferent to the depredation of the countryside through intensive farming and the ever accelerating decline of mammal, bird and insect species"?

Most people who object to the exploitation of animals for profit and amusement share a broadly inclusive sympathy for nature.

It is to be regretted that you should encourage one of your staff to mock their viewpoint.

ALAN CLARK MP
House of Commons, London SW1

Sir: I'm inclined to become a vegetarian after reading your article "Assault and battery" (Review, 27 January).

On my father's poultry farm in the 1920s our hens had runs which were always green places for them to have dust baths. There were hen cabins, litter on the floor, perches with dropping boards below - cleaned out daily. They had nest boxes lined with straw.

We killed our birds by hand - father called it "wringing their necks" and it was instantaneous. The birds were hung for a short time and then plucked by hand. The birds were dressed by hand and, having been hung, it was not a "bloody" job.

My father refused to convert to the battery system, which could have resulted in him becoming a wealthy man.

The argument that cages provide sanctuary is ridiculous. A weaker bird could be attacked by others but it was noticed and dealt with. I never saw a bird minus feathers or suffering from arthritis.

The old system would provide more jobs, of course, making eggs more expensive but maybe it would be a good thing if they became a luxury.

MARY HOBSON
Bieldside, Scotland

Timor: what ethics?

Sir: So Jakarta is offering the possibility of full independence to East Timor ("Timor is offered 'freedom' at last", 28 January). Is this believable when behind the scenes it is arming and inciting pro-integrationist militias and conducting a war in cyberspace to delete East Timor as a virtual reality sovereign state from our computer screens ("The day East Timor was deleted", 29 January)?

Perhaps the Indonesian embassy spokesman in London was closer to the mark when he asserted that "the handover of the [Internet] domain to East Timor is beyond imagination, since the government of East Timor will not exist".

What then of Britain's role? Even as Indonesia's Supreme Deliberative Assembly prepares to meet in Jakarta next August to consider East Timor's future, the delivery of 16 British Aerospace Hawk 200-series multi-role combat jets will be commencing. Three will be flown out a month at the cost to the British taxpayer of £42m for each delivery. Meanwhile, in the "Timor Gap" between East Timor and Australia, British companies will continue to participate in the exploitation of a resource - potentially the 25th largest oil and liquid natural gas field in the world - which by rights belongs to the East Timorese people.

What sort of message is all of this sending to Jakarta? That arms and oil are more important to us than the welfare of the Timorese? Some ethical foreign policy this. Dr PETER CARY
Trinity College, Oxford

Blackboard jumble

Sir: What is the point of the maths test for teachers (report, 4 February)? We already know that a career in teaching doesn't add up.
PHILIP D DELNOR
Swanscombe, Kent

The problem with saying nice things about the BBC

THEY'VE HAD quite a good idea on Radio 4 this week. At 9.45 every morning, they have dug up a column or essay from a half-remembered American writer, or American-based writer, and got someone to read it out. That's it. Five different American essays, just simply read out.

One was on the flu epidemic of 1919, and it was very good, too. The one two mornings ago was all about going fishing in the north-west mountains of the USA, and trying to catch steelhead salmon. I find it hard to get interested in fishing but I really enjoyed this piece, especially as it was full of such nice ideas as "the ripples spread outwards in the water, like a hub cap sinking." Nice image. The piece was written by Jonathan Raban, or, as the Radio Times

called him, Jonathan Raban... A touchy reader writes: Dear Mr Kingdon, Ah ha! I see what you're up to! Is this going to be one of those articles of yours where you store up a few misprints in the 'Radio Times' and then use them as a basis for saying that the BBC is rotten to the core?

Certainly not. I was going to say some nice things about the BBC, as a matter of fact.

A suspicious reader writes: Is this some kind of a trick?

Not at all. I only wanted to say how much I had enjoyed seeing a return to something as old-fashioned as a radio talk. Some of the best radio ever has been provided by one man reading out a script. Dylan Thomas did it now and then. Rene Cuthbert did it often. James Cameron did it, too. But nobody

seems to do it any more. Except Alistair Cooke.

A mistrustful reader writes: I hope you've spell THAT name correctly.

Well, it's the way they spell it in the Radio Times. Of course, that doesn't mean it's correct, does it? A terse reader writes: Yeah, yeah. Get on with it.

I just wanted to say that there have been some very good things on BBC radio recently. Did you catch a thing before Christmas called Killyard Blues?

A startled reader writes: Who, me?

Yes, you. No. What was it about? It was a serial about a travelling jazz band in Scotland, who have just welcomed their accordionist, Homesick Ferguson, played by Bill



MILES KINGDON

I liked the piece by Jonathan Raban, or, as the 'Radio Times' called him, Raban

Paterson, back from prison, where he's been inside on a drugs charge. Another member of the band is a

Scottish nationalist terrorist. It was very funny, quite dark, mostly comprehensible. Sounds weird to me. Who was it by?

A poet called Don Paterson. Is that spell correctly? I think so.

They've got POETS writing sitcoms now?

Well, apparently the Edinburgh producer Dave Batchelor saw a one-page poem about a drunken jazz accordionist by Mr Paterson and liked it so much that he thought it would make a six-part drama serial. So he talked him into it.

How do you know all this?

Research. Gossip. Listening at doors and windows.

Hmm... Look, I've got a poem I've written somewhere. Do you think if I sent it to Mr Batchelor...?

No. Right... Do they actually have jazz accordianists in Scotland? Sure. They even have jazz bagpipers.

You're joking! Name one... Hamish Moore.

Who's he?

He's a jazz bagpiper named Hamish Moore. From Dunkeld.

I see. Right... In fact, jazz has done pretty well out of the BBC recently. The weekday 11.30 slot on Radio 3 called Jazz Notes has become a damned good programme, with the newly appointed Alan Shapiro in the chair. They've also got a wonderful history of jazz going out in 52 weekly parts, called Jazz Century, written and narrated by Russell Davies, who is one of those broadcasters who sounds very

wise and yet down-to-earth, a bit like James Cameron and Rene Cuthbert...

I thought you said there wasn't any of that stuff on BBC radio any more.

Well, not much. Wasn't Russell Davies recently dropped from the Radio 4 programme about films, 'Talking Pictures'?

Yes. Why?

I don't know. Maybe he's too good for Radio 4.

Ooh - now we're getting acerbic again! I thought you were going to be nice about the BBC?

Well, I was being nice about them... Then let's stop before we get nasty again, shall we? OK, Stuarts me.

THE INDEPENDENT

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A simple rule for politicians - keep out of private lives

WILLIAM HAGUE is a puzzling phenomenon: impressively fluent; obviously bright; nearly brilliant; never quite right. What on earth, for example, possessed him to walk into precisely the same logical trap into which Tony Blair had fallen only a few months before? When the Government published its Green Paper on the family last year, the Prime Minister tied himself in knots on the issue of marriage. The document described marriage as the "best" way to bring up children, while insisting that being unmarried was not worse. Mr Blair, trying to explain this contradiction, said this did not mean "penalising people who choose not to, it means supporting those who choose to marry". So, marriage is best - apart from any other arrangement - and the Government will not "penalise" people who choose to live together, just refuse to help them. No wonder he is now quiet on the subject.

And yet, despite this object lesson in failing to reconcile the irreconcilable, Mr Hague gave an interview and made a speech yesterday in which he failed to do exactly the same. Marriage should be encouraged by the tax and benefit system because it is the ideal, he said. Not that he was judging people "who find fulfilment in many other sorts of relationships". Despite Sir Norman Fowler's praise for his masterful talents (see page 4), Mr Hague managed to go even further and deeper into the trap than Mr Blair. The Conservative leader suggested that marriage was the answer to a whole range of social ills - indeed, that it might be an engine of prosperity. "Our society has found something which lowers the crime rate, increases people's chances of finding work, improves their education, and contributes to their happiness and well-being," he said.

This is a fallacy of cause and effect, and shows only that to focus on an official ceremony is to miss all the important factors that make a difference between strong families and weak ones, social cohesion and social breakdown, prosperity and deprivation.

This was the message of Blair Mark One, who declared that if a lone parent had deliberately chosen to have children without forming a stable relationship: "I disagree with what they have done." That caused a fuss at the time, impressing Tory Middle England and offending traditional liberals. But it was much more defensible than the contortions of Blair Mark Two: what mattered to the Early Blair was the "stable relationship", not marriage.

That is the point: what matters is stability, responsibility and the welfare of children. Which is, in fact, what most of the Government's White Paper was about: quite rightly, state interference in the family should be to support children, not to support marriage. When the reactionaries to whom Mr Hague's "listening party" has bent



its ear bemoan the number of children "born out of wedlock", they do not pause to ask about the qualities of the relationships into which such children are born. Nor do they ask whether a financial incentive to marriage would improve the quality of these relationships.

Sadly, Mr Hague was not asked the questions that would have teased out the illogicality of his position. If marriage in itself promotes stable relationships, is he in favour of gay marriages - especially given that one of the arguments that are favoured by Tories against giving equal rights to homosexuals is that gay men tend to be promiscuous and predatory?

The fact is that politicians should stay out of people's personal lives. Mr Blair should have stuck with Blair Mark One, and Mr Hague should have kept to his excellent theme of the week - that there is a limit to the number of things that politicians should poke their noses into. The issue of marriage, like Glenn Hoddle's religious beliefs, is beyond that limit.

Never mind the ratings, just feel the quality

BROADCASTERS LIKE their rituals as much as any High Church Anglican. The quarterly radio ratings figures, published yesterday, are the occasion of one of the most meaningless. The instant analysis is always the same, with minor variations. Should James Boyle stay or go as boss of Radio 4? Is Zoe Ball or Chris Evans up or down?

But whether ratings are going up or down, strange to say, does not tell us much about the health of the stations, or of radio in general. What matters is choice and quality, and on these issues the statistics are silent. It may be too much to expect Mr Evans to put quality before profit. But for Mr Boyle, controller of a public-service channel, chasing ratings is folly. He encouraged the ritual by saying he would go if audience figures dropped. He should have

said that he would go if his programmes were no good. Never mind ratings, his job should be on the line for giving us the execrable "comedy" produced by Punt and Dennis. Healthy competition means Radio 4's ratings are bound to fall over time: we should celebrate the widening of choice, not worry about the decline of civilisation as we know it.

A small fanfare

A FANFARE please - on the synthesiser, of course - for David Blunkett. The Government has begun to turn the corner in remedying the deplorable neglect of music teaching over the past decade. Funding for school music is being doubled, and a survey published today suggests a small increase in the proportion of children learning an instrument. Those instruments are more likely to be electric guitars, electronic keyboards or even computers. But that is all to the good: creativity should not be limited to recorders, trumpets and violins.

Don't underestimate Mr Trimble, the man who will disarm the IRA

IF YOU had predicted five, let alone ten, years ago that the leader of the Ulster Unionist Party would write to Amnesty International urging them to visit Northern Ireland, you would have been mad. By doing just that this week, David Trimble has shown, not for the first time, that he is a politician who is unwilling to be imprisoned by his party's history.

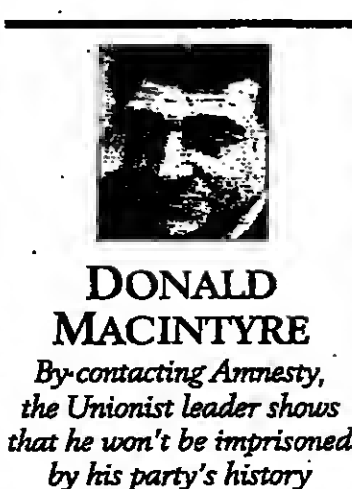
Amnesty has long had a place in the demonology of Ulster Unionism. Its reports on the methods used by the police and Army in fighting terrorism in the last 20 years were frequently written off as, at best, naïve, or, at worst, crypto-nationalist propaganda. Trimble's exhortation to Amnesty to investigate punishment beatings by both republican and loyalist paramilitaries is easy to dismiss as a tactic, which it partly is, to expose the continuing lawlessness of the IRA in a period of ceasefire. In fact, it is a rather potent symbol of something bigger. Conventional mainland liberal wisdom - of the kind that embraces agencies such as Amnesty without hesitation - has tended, equally without hesitation, to see Ulster Unionism as the problem rather than part of the solution in Northern Ireland. It is time to review some of those assumptions, just as it is time to review the question of who is doing most to undermine human rights on the streets of Derry and Belfast.

From a distance, of course, it looks as though Trimble is up to Unionism's old tricks, making impossible demands on a republican leadership for a handover of arms it cannot deliver. He will, it is now certain, refuse to sit

on the planned Northern Ireland Executive with Sinn Féin, to which powers are due to be transferred in six weeks' time, unless decommissioning of arms begins before then. He is threatening to "park" the peace process and to seek the review provided for in the Good Friday agreement for such an outcome. Is this not just the same old politics of "no surrender" once again? Not necessarily. The Dublin government, for one, has not yet joined the public clamour for Trimble to back down, a point made in a recent eloquent *Irish Times* editorial, which asserted that "he has shown remarkable flexibility and openness as to how and when the IRA might show its commitment to exclusively political methods" and that "there has been no reciprocation on the part of Sinn Féin or the IRA". At considerable political risk to himself, Trimble has come a long way since the beginning of the peace process.

Some of those who understand the Provisional IRA much better than I do, believe that the Republicans have misread Trimble, thinking that he would go the way of all his predecessors and say no at a much earlier point to the peace process, and that he would never be able to withstand the pressure within his own ranks to pull out, leaving nationalism alone occupying the moral high ground. If so, they were wrong on both counts. Trimble took risks to stay in the talks. He is still there, and the moral authority is no longer cleaving quite as securely to the republicans as some of them may have hoped.

On one reading, the future may not



DONALD MACINTYRE
By contacting Amnesty, the Unionist leader shows that he won't be imprisoned by his party's history

be quite as desperately bleak as it looks. Under one of several possible scenarios, the deadlock would continue until the deadline of 10 March.

The "parking" of the process would then be followed by several days of frenetic activity in Washington over the St Patrick's Day period in which President Clinton, and perhaps the SDLP, would bring irresistible pressure on the republicans to decommission sufficient armaments to satisfy Trimble that he can honourably allow the new executive to assume its powers.

This process has some historical precedent. Rather as de Valera formally, and against all his instincts, swore allegiance to the British crown in 1927 so that his republican Fianna Fáil party could take its seats in the Irish Parliament and take power, so Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness

will finally lift the taboo on handing over IRA arms in order to sit at the Cabinet table. There are even those who believe that the republican leadership may slowly be coming to realise that this may be the outcome, and that the brutal murder of the ex-IRA man Eamon Collins in Newry last month was part of a grisly IRA-sanctioned deck-clearing operation to discourage others who may, once a settlement is reached, be tempted to follow Collins's example by lifting the lid on some of its murky history over the past 20 years.

That may be too optimistic. The IRA may not agree even to the minimum decommissioning required to allow the process, now in its moment of maximum danger, to advance; the next few weeks will be among the most decisive for Northern Ireland's future. But, whatever the outcome, it is no longer looks anything like as easy to write Trimble off as the obstacle to a long-term settlement in Northern Ireland. If the IRA refuses to decommission, while the British Government bends over backwards, not least by controversial prisoner releases, to keep the process alive, then it is becoming increasingly clear that Trimble may still emerge the more open-minded, even pluralist, politician. His approach to Amnesty International and to Human Rights Watch in New York about the punishment beatings, is a small but significant illustration of that.

There are those who succumb to the temptation of thinking that somehow the punishment squads are an acceptable price for political

progress. That does not appear to have been the view of Maureen Kearney, a lifelong republican and the 66-year-old mother of Andrew Kearney, who bled to death after being shot in the legs in the aftermath of an argument over a game of cards with a prominent IRA man. Mrs Kearney confronted the man who ordered the shooting, and reportedly sent the bill to Sinn Féin for her son's funeral.

But that is not the only point. The approach to Amnesty was made rather swiftly after a Sunday newspaper editorial made the suggestion; Harry Barnes, the Labour MP whose New Dialogue organisation has shown a commendable open-mindedness towards all sections of opinion in Northern Ireland, has worked with the non-sectarian Families Against Intimidation and Terror in Belfast since 1991. He has long talked of a "human rights emergency" in the province, and got up an Early Day Motion on the subject. Trimble, independently, made the decisive overture.

It is a reminder, of course, that it is no longer an imperialist British Government which stands in the way of human rights in Northern Ireland. But it is also, equally significantly, another modest sign that beneath the often rebarbative exterior of Northern Ireland's First Minister there is an imaginative politician willing, if he is allowed, to break out of the strait-jacket of his party's die-hard and dogmatic culture. The old certainties are slowly changing in Northern Ireland; fashionable perceptions in the mainland, not least on the left, need to change with them.

QUOTE OF THE DAY
"Unless we can contain and defuse the ethnic hatreds in the Balkans they will embroil us in a much larger conflict."
Bill Clinton, US President

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY
"The best thing about the future is that it comes one day at a time."
Abraham Lincoln, 19th century US president

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THE WEBSITE is hateful and intimidating, no question about it. But the court's ruling may be intimidating, too. People with unpopular things to say might fear the repercussions. History should act as a solemn reminder to those who see this issue solely through the prism of safeguarding abortion rights. In the past, the same arguments in favor of restricting free speech were used to try to quell black civil rights. Maintaining perspective is hard,

MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD
The American press considers the huge fine levied on an anti-abortion website

The fact is, Christians and other conscience people who recognize abortion for the horror it is do not now, nor do they ever, advocate killing a human being for the sake of it

and certainly not for a living. USA Journal

THANKS TO a judge's instruction to the jury that the site should be considered threatening if construed as such by a "reasonable person", the jury found for the plaintiffs. The Supreme Court, however, previously ruled that to be considered a threat, speech must be likely to cause "imminent lawless action". By lowering the standard, it has been made much easier for courts to restrict speech they find offensive. Delaware County Daily

and behavior that incites to violence? We have supported the rights that many might regard as leading to annoying acts, such as the right of paparazzi to get their photographs. But the defendants went well beyond the reasonable. The decision should be seen not as a blueprint for stifling the free expression of ideas, but rather as a warning to those who would wrap threats in the cloth of the First Amendment. Los Angeles Times

PANDORA

ANOTHER EFFORT by Tony Blair to appeal direct to the people. February's edition of *Saga*, the magazine for older people, has a front cover dominated by a picture of the actress Lynsey De Paul. Directly underneath her ample décolletage is the slogan: "Tony Blair - My message for *Saga* readers." Blair's message included telling readers that: "Many of our best businesses are increasingly realising that they get rid of their experienced workers at their peril. There is no substitute for that experience and skill and there is a real danger of losing the collective memories of their companies."

Pandora called the veteran MP Tony Benn, who said: "The Prime Minister might remember Old Labour. We have been told the past is relevant, and yet anyone who goes on about it is a dinosaur."

BE WARNED when booking private rooms at Marco Pierre White's stunning London restaurant, Mirabelle. The rooms - often used by MPs and power-brokers - are filled by hidden cameras.

When Pandora called White's PR, Alan Crompton-Batt, he said that he had not heard about the cameras but would call to check. Since then, and despite various calls, Mr Crompton-Batt seems to have vanished. Perhaps he has been spending the past two days watching videos.

DESPITE CRIPPLINGLY poor reviews of *You'll Have Had Your Hole* when it opened at the West Yorkshire Playhouse in Leeds, there was no shortage of celebrity names turning up on Wednesday night to see the Scottish writer Irvine Welsh's controversial new play in London's West End.

Following the performance there was a party at London's trendy new Balleneas nightclub, China White, attended by Sir Bob Geldof, Harry Enfield and Elisabeth Murdoch, among others. Pandora was invited to the after-party party at Noel Gallagher's house, Supernova Heights, where his wife, Meg Matthews (pictured), kept revellers, including the all-girl band All Saints and DJ Lisa L'Anson, busy until six in the morning.

WHAT DO MPs do when the rigours of parliamentary procedure get too much? Write limericks. That's what three London Labour

MPs were spotted doing in a recent session of the standing committee for the Greater London Authority Bill. Linda Ferham (Ilford North), Eileen Gordon (Romford) and Steve Pound (Ealing North) were seen passing a paper between them on which the words "Lady from Epping", "flirt" and "skirt" were inscribed.

Stephen Pound MP explained that the limericks had a dual use: "They are a kind of meditation technique to survive the first four-and-a-half hours of the Liberal Democrats' input on the committee. They also serve as mnemonics to help us remember the clauses of the Bill."

PROFITS ARE already being made out of the Lib Dem leadership race. Mark Oaten, Liberal Democrat MP for Winchester, has come up with a cunning wheeze to raise funds for his local party: "I've got about eight dinner engagements in the next couple of months that I'm going to auction among my parliamentary colleagues. Given that many of my colleagues are anxious to get themselves seen, I am sure that there will be no shortage of bidders."

THOSE TAKING out a new subscription to the *New Statesman* will be pleased to see the special offer of 50 per cent off the magazine plus a free book: *Mandy: The Unauthorised Biography of Peter Mandelson*, by Paul Rundle, who has just been signed up as a columnist for the left-wing weekly. Next week look out for *New Statesman's* owner Geoffrey Robinson's stunning offer of a low-interest-rate mortgage.

LOOKING FOR a "unique" home? Do you have the odd £1m to spend? If so John Reid, Elton John's ex-manager, is selling his London home complete with tiger-skin carpets and an extra mews house. The property appears across two colour pages of the current issue of *Country Life* magazine. Late last year, the welder's son from Paisley cleared out the contents of his homes in London, New York and St. Tropez in a two-day auction at Christie's, which netted him £2m. Reid discovered Elton in 1970 when the latter was a £10-a-week singer-songwriter. Reid went on to make £30m from the partnership. Hardly what you'd call negative equity.

Pandora can be contacted by e-mail: pandora@independent.co.uk

The long, hard slog of opposition



NORMAN FOWLER

Rather than excluding the old guard, we should bring back some members of the last government

Michael Heseltine, Margaret Thatcher had a turbulent time. She was too middle class, too right wing, too inexperienced. Who had ever heard of a woman being prime minister of this country?

There is a revealing piece in Ted Heath's autobiography which recalls that as late November 1978 most of the public thought that Heath rather than Thatcher would make the best Conservative prime minister. Thus anyone with a glimmer of

understanding of post-war political history will understand that opposition is never an easy time. It was not easy for Margaret Thatcher. It was not easy for Ted Heath before his victory in 1970. It was not easy for Winston Churchill before the 1950 election. Nor can anyone seriously claim that in general it has been any better for Labour. True, they did well in the post-1992 period, but that was because the Tory party insisted on public displays of disunity.

The same opinion polls, such as the survey of party officials in *The Independent* last Saturday, which reveal the relative anonymity of shadow spokesmen, found the same position with Labour before 1997.

In one respect the situation has become worse for the Shadow Cabinet of 1999. Parliament goes largely unreported. As Ken Clarke observes: if you want to keep a secret, say it on the floor of the Commons. In previous days William Hague's mastery of the Commons and his undoubted talent as a speaker - better than Heath, Major and Thatcher - would win him plaudits. Today, Parliament is being shunted into second place and reputations take longer to make.

Now, none of this is to excuse ineffective opposition. Ann Widdecombe demonstrates that it is certainly possible to make an impact. But it is an argument for rejecting suggested panaceas such as the execution of any shadow minister who happens to have been a member of the last government.

As it happens, I was not a member of the last government, although I did have a walk-on part as party chairman. Now, as a member of the Shadow Cabinet, I regard it as one of my main tasks to encourage new talents and to help bring them into the Shadow Cabinet.

One of the unrecognised features of the Conservative Party today in Parliament is that there is an exceptional reservoir of talent. It is these politicians that are the leaders of the new, emerging Tory party. But to go from there and argue for the exclusion of anyone who has been associated with the previous regime, is banal.

The full irony of the argument comes when the two chief targets of the lunch-time briefers prove to be Michael Howard and John Redwood. By any standards they are two of the most effective shadow ministers around the Shadow Cabinet table.

Indeed, rather than excluding the old guard, there is a strong case for bringing back one or two members of the last government who are now on the back benches. Virginia Bottomley is a prime example of the kind of politician I have in mind.

Sadly, there seem to be some who genuinely believe that everything done by the Tories in the past was wrong. But we would not have won four elections in a row without an effective organisation. This was the party which reformed the unions, introduced privatisation and created one of the strongest economies in Europe. The greatest tribute to our past record is that half of our policies are being pursued by the present government.

Of course, there were mistakes and we should learn from them. We need to review all the policy areas. But one thing is certain: discreet political lunches with the ill-disguised sub-plot "I am terribly clever but the others are all idiots" will not win elections. Better that everyone should recognise that opposition is hard work and hard pounding, and get on with it.

The writer is shadow Home Secretary

To be draped in dead animals feels the height of good taste



PHILIP HENSHER

A coat made out of the skins of Dalmatian puppies might be rather a divine sort of object

of leather trousers. And other skins are more or less a no-no for anyone at all. To wear fur is tantamount to making a point in an argument.

And yet who has not felt a tiny twinge of envy for Cruella de Vil, who has not had to suppress the appalling but irresistible thought that, really, a coat made out of the skins of Dalmatian puppies might be rather a divine sort of object?

Certainly, going to countries where there is no widespread feeling against fur can produce shocking experiences. We've all seen those parties of Italian matrons, doing the great capitals of the world, and taking the opportunity to drape some sable over their shoulders. I always feel rather faint when I come across an entire room in the National Gallery filled with one of these groups, glowing with mink. It seems barbaric and ridiculous to swathe oneself in fur, and London is not often cold enough to justify it. And yet they have all, apparently, agreed to do it.

It's not, perhaps, quite so bad in colder climates. I have to admit that one winter, when I was in Berlin, I became so frustrated and miserable at the cold that I went out and bought a second-hand, man's fur coat. It's a wonderful thing, but not something you could wear comfortably in London. The Anglo-Saxon world has often found it hard to understand that the rest of the world hardly cares whether a lot of deeply unpleasant and vicious small animals live or die.

Moreover, there's an English notion of quiet good taste in dress, which is difficult to carry through if you look like *Animal Hospital* on legs. The rest of the world is more robustly indifferent to the rights of animals and, by and large, would prefer to display its money on its back than let it moulder away in a building-society account.

Certainly, one can't imagine those rich Italian matrons making much sense of the latest proposal from California. It has been suggested that anyone selling fur in Beverly Hills should be required by law to display the following, rather bloodcurdling notice: "This product is made with fur from animals that may have been killed by electrocution, gassing, neck-breaking, poisoning, clubbing, stomping or drowning and may have been trapped in steel-jaw, leg-hold traps."

It might have been drafted by Dickens's *Fat Boy*, wanting to make your flesh creep. Whether this is going to have much effect, if the law is passed, remains to be seen. Some of the young widows of Los Angeles would cheerfully club, stomp and electrocute the animals themselves if they absolutely had to. Not many people who own a mink coat are under the impression that the con-



Glenn Close as Cruella de Vil with a handful of the pups she coveted for a coat in Disney's '101 Dalmatians'

stituent parts led happy and fulfilled lives and passed away in their sleep at the age of 95 in mink skins. Unless they are extremely stupid, they've decided not to care, and no number of gruesome statutory notices is likely to have much effect.

One has the slight sense that people are starting to drift back to fur; indeed, it's been striking that in the last few seasons, fur has been acquiring associations of Dark Ages opulence, and turning up in collections for men. As London Men's Fashion Week begins, it will be interesting to see who has started to show an interest in fur for hats, collars, trimmings, the whole works.

The truth is that the opposition to fur, in most people, sprang not from any burning ethical commitment, but from peer pressure. And when people get bored of hassling strangers in the street, it will start turning up again. We might prefer to think that

the anti-fur decades have taken a moral standpoint, but that's not quite right: it's been much more dictated by taste. Or, to put it another way, it's just one more shift in fashion, which may very well shift back.

Meanwhile, I think I'm going to carry on wearing my coat from Bloomingdale's; it's just too nice not to. And a very odd thing seems to be happening to my wardrobe; it is filling up with things made out of the skins of wee innocent beasts, and is starting to look like the party clothes of Vlad the Impaler.

Looking at shoes the other day, I just couldn't resist a pair in black python skin, and another in blond pony. But perhaps the whole thing is going a bit far. A girl I know asked me what the equestrian pair were made out of. "Cat," I said. She looked horrified but I fear, incredulous; she looked as if she thought it were just about possible.

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Arguing the case for the nation state

WHAT DOES globalisation mean? It is a process in which activities, and relations between both individuals and institutions, expand beyond the parochial and the national to the international or global. It is economic in the first instance, arising from trade and production, but very quickly it involves social elements (tourism, migration and ecumenism) and with the increasing emphasis on communication it begins to refer, above all, to a spreading form of shared human awareness.

It is a rather cute term, much liked by journalists and others who live by spinning words. It is something of an alternative to all those "posts", such as post-industrial and post-national. One crucial globalising fact is television, a visual medium; and vision, as Hobbes pointed out long ago, is the sense out of our five senses which encourages our propensity to fantasy. What we see is often superficial.

This helps create a new situation in which millions of people become increasingly aware of a materially delightful lifestyle available to other

people - foreigners, the rich, whites - but which they cannot possibly share in because it has taken us in the West centuries to work it out and develop the capital on which it depends. The resources for everybody sharing it do not exist in current technology. It requires invisible moral virtues - these people do not have - forms of prudence, self-control, regularity of work and, above all, a conception of other people as fellow beings to be treated in a regular and helpful way - by contrast with those who can only take seriously people who are kin in some sense. ("Treat a stranger as a thief" is, I am told, an old Japanese saying.)

The continent of Africa most notably lacks many of these virtues and has proved, in our time, incapable of running modern societies. The virtues these countries do have - tribal or ethnic solidarity, for example - are self-defeating in market terms, though not, perhaps, in what I consider below as "war economies." Asia, in many cases, has similar problems.

Globalisation, or at least economic relations extending beyond the local, has been



PODIUM

KENNETH MINOGUE
From a lecture by the
Professor of Political
Science at the London
School of Economics

going on for millennia, and its high point, in fact, was the period up to 1914. After that, protectionism, mercantilism and different varieties of war economies dominated the world until after 1945.

The significance of the idea of globalisation is that it has become the basis for a political argument: we human beings are now becoming increasingly interdependent, and we need global institutions to respond to

this new situation. Environmentalists are especially prominent in arguing that international authority must supersede national. Soros is another declared foe, and much of the thinking behind the European Union is the attempt to defeat globalisation.

Hundreds of international treaties cover everything from the environment to trade to human rights. These treaties are already coercive, as the Pinochet case illustrates.

The concept of globalisation suggests that the world is moving inexorably towards an achieved unity, a system that embraces everyone, and this unity, though no doubt moral in terms of human rights, is based on economic transactions. The laws of economics are universal, and human beings may be understood as pursuers of incentives. It is this assumption that leads to the implication that globalisation has the potential for a peaceful future; it sometimes functions as another branch of the "end of history" thesis.

The common media appreciation is that globalisation is an unstoppable force, that democracy is spreading

through the world as the child of rising standards of living, and that the nation state is losing its capacity to control its citizens, because they can now move both themselves and their capital elsewhere. Taxation is becoming subject to competition.

My own suspicion is that globalisation is this time, as in the 19th century, a highly uncertain process which can and will be stopped when convenient. Democracy, I have no doubt, is doomed. It is already pretty national, a mere responsiveness, and the growing complexity of the world is the perfect soil for experts.

And the nation state ought not to be written off. This is where the power has been, and there is a lot of enthusiasm to keep it there. I might add that, horrible as it has often been, the nation state - at least in the Anglo-Saxon world - remains the only institution that offers a release from the parochial. The village community is a nightmare, the international world the arena of meaningless abstraction. All we have, for the moment at least, is the state.

Morals, matrimony and money



DEBORAH ORR

Lack of money creates problems in families, but it's not the reason they are breaking down

AS A working mother with a workaholic husband, a toddler and two young stepchildren, it's not often that I have time to leaf through the many magazines that are ostensibly published to cater for women such as myself. Yesterday, though, I made an exception, and hunkered down with a copy of *Prima*, the German-owned woman's monthly which became a surprise market-leader when it launched in the UK in the mid-Eighties.

God, it was exhausting. Forget about actually reading the features. Let's concentrate on a few of the tips for completing an action-packed *Prima*-style February.

Teach your children about sex using the Internet. Try a great new lotion for getting rid of their head lice. Stop using commercial baby food because it may cause allergies. Hit the streets to shop for your spring wardrobe. Get your Valentine's Day celebrations sorted out. Take your body language in hand. Sew exotic cushions. Co-ordinate your desk with fancy filing trays and matching pen-holders. Plant a Zen garden. Make a colonial cupboard/a chopstick frame/Chinese candles/lacquer boxes/laminated place mats/lampshades/hands. Give to charity. Organise a sponsored event for charity. Double-check your car's safety and security. Improve the lifestyle of the family dog. Get yourself a new hairdo. Do more exercise, in a dynamic and highly disciplined new regime. Varnish your nails better. Make a complete weekend wardrobe with the free patterns provided. Go on a diet. Knit an outdoor jacket using the instructions below. Change your food shopping habits to create healthier family meals. Redecorate your home from top to bottom. Develop imaginative themes for your children's parties. Find child care that works for you so that you can really focus when you're at work. Self-diagnose simple ailments and get yourself down to the chemist. Cut your cancer risk. Cook dinner in 10 minutes. Go on holiday. Read. Go to the cinema. Go to the theatre. Hire a video. And, of course, consult the stars to see what effect all this self-improvement may have on your future.

So far I've ticked off one thing on this list. I've consulted my stars. This is what they say: "You're under



William Hague, who yesterday launched National Marriage Week, kissing his bride, Ffion, at their wedding last year

John Voos

more pressure than you ever thought possible and something urgent has to happen to sort the situation out. Yet you're up against a rule that can't be broken, a factor that won't budge or a person who won't co-operate. It's all down to the combined influence of Saturn, Mars and Mercury. This is a tense time but it's also highly constructive as it will force you to do one of the bravest things you've ever done and afterwards you'll never look back."

Earlier this week *Prima* released a wide-ranging survey investigating its readers' attitudes towards family life in Britain, prompted by an interview with the magazine's editor, Lindsay Nicholson, had conducted with Tony Blair. Though the survey results aren't in fact published in this month's *Prima*, the survey's findings hit the

headlines elsewhere because 71 per cent of *Prima* readers said home life had become "less satisfying", while 89 per cent of them claimed that "balancing home life and work was tougher now", with 41 per cent citing the reason for this as "not enough time". (Presumably the other 59 per cent do have a Zen garden.)

The rest of the media greeted these revelations with shock, which can only be because they don't understand what *Prima* women are trying to achieve - old-fashioned, all-singing, all-dancing, knitting, sewing, baking, sampler-stitching wife-and-motherhood, in combination with work, Zen gardening and community health care. Instead they promptly linked *Prima*'s findings with an authoritative report by the Mental Health Foundation saying that one in five children suffers mental health problems, and with William and Ffion Hague's launch of National Marriage Week.

The latter link is the more obvious and straightforward, since another finding of the *Prima* survey was that 78 per cent of women questioned considered marriage to be "vital for stable family life", while 80 per cent felt that tax advantages were the best motivation for couples

to enter into and remain in marriage. Enter Mr Hague, with a speech to Sussex Tories signalling new tax policies designed to reward married couples and women who stay at home to care for their families. (Not a choice that William and Ffion themselves have had to work through during their own brief union, but hey, we all understand that the examples political families set on these occasions have narrow limits.)

A good result for *Prima* readers, but not necessarily so great for the children suffering from mental health problems. The MHF's report cited 21 risk factors, 10 of which are linked to problems in the family, and particularly affect the children of broken families. Hague's argument may be that with his tax advantages, fewer families will be broken; but since the cost of divorce is financially devastating anyway and doesn't seem to put people off too much, it's difficult to see how a few extra quid a year will make much of an impact.

An added kick in the teeth to children is that 68 per cent of *Prima* readers believe single mothers should be encouraged to work (as well as knit, and make their own clothes, delicious dinners, etc), presumably so that the money they'd

otherwise be scrounging off the state can be instead be diverted to like-minded married folk such as, say, Tony and Cherie Blair, who can squirrel this dosh away along with their family allowance to provide spending-money during holidays in the Seychelles.

Which brings us to another of the problems of further rewarding those who are financially affluent anyway. Already dual-income family units have forced up the cost of living - particularly when it comes to property prices - to the point where a family living on around £30,000 a year can barely afford to purchase a tiny one-bedroom flat in London. Fiddling further with financial inequalities will create as many problems as it solves, and while tax relief for hard-pressed families should be welcomed, financial rewards for comfortably off people who happen to be married are surely a frivolous waste of public money.

Lack of money certainly creates problems in families, but it is not the major reason why they are breaking down, and it is not going to be the means by which we stick them back together again. Instead, an answer to the difficulties women find in balancing home, family and

work can be found by flicking through the male equivalent of *Prima*. There is, of course, no such thing, although the nearest magazine on the market appears to be *Esquire*, which calls itself "the sharper read for men".

So what do we have here? Our guide to playboys and playmates, Sex and the C-spot. Catherine Zeta Jones on a rug. What it's like to have a heart attack. How to cheat at cards. Arsenal ladies team. Fear in a glass - the pint cocktail. Pick of the kit for the ultimate bloke's pad. And so on. No babies, no child care, no relationships, no parenting, no knitting, no sewing, no Zen gardens, no 10-minute dinners, and no stars. No idea what the future may hold for married men, or for the children these "men" must someday vaguely assume they'll have.

I don't know which is more damaging - the absurd demands placed on women by *Prima*, or the absurd denial of demands placed on men by *Esquire*. But I do know that it's in the space between these fantasies that families fall apart. It's a space that can be filled by mature reflection on how men and women can really make an equal world in which our children can thrive. But it can't be filled by tax breaks.

RIGHT OF REPLY

PETER HEWITT



The chief executive of the Arts Council replies to an article on the Lottery by David Benedict

IT IS a peculiarly British disease. Hundreds of millions of pounds in lottery proceeds come tumbling into the arts and the critics dub it "the biggest disaster ever to befall arts funding in this country". The reality is different: the majority of our capital projects are yet to be completed, but we are on the brink of nothing less than a transformation of the landscape for arts infrastructure in this country - thanks to the lottery.

Yes, capital projects can be fraught with risk, but this is the case with all developments - whether commercial or subsidised, lottery-backed or non-lottery-backed. But the successes speak for themselves. Next month, Sheffield's National Centre for Popular Music opens with £9.5m of lottery funding. Sunderland's National Glass Centre - £5.5m - has already proved a triumph. Of course, we shouldn't forget smaller projects such as the Tricycle Theatre in Kilburn, London - £2m - or the £1.8m to Henshaw's Society for the Blind for a craft centre for visually impaired people in Knaresborough, Yorkshire. David Benedict rightly highlights the difficulties that could result from the initial lottery blueprint. In a situation where all proceeds had to be ploughed into capital, any revenue implications had to be met from non-lottery budgets. But that was then. Now we are in a position where we can use lottery money to produce a much healthier mix of revenue and capital funding. And we are doing just that.

New lottery legislation gives us the flexibility to use both of our cash-streams - grant-in-aid and lottery proceeds - to achieve one single strategy. We can't promise there won't ever be problems again with lottery projects, but we can guarantee that the arts and the arts public will be the winners.

Sex and the Samoans

"THIS MEAT has surely been used for soup," says Miss Bartlett at the beginning of *A Room with a View*. I had similar thoughts on picking up Derek Freeman's latest book on the "Mead-Freeman controversy", about the validity of the American anthropologist's famous fieldwork in Samoa. Freeman published *Margaret Mead and Samoa: The Making and Unmaking of an Anthropological Myth* in 1983, five years after Mead's death. His earlier book provoked not only many publications but also a play called *Heretic*, staged in Australia and New Zealand. Yet such is Freeman's skill with commentaries that, in the end, one has quite a tasty meal.

The American Anthropological Association won many people over to Freeman's side when it passed a resolution denouncing the 1983 book without inviting Freeman to defend himself. This stupid reaction vindicated the contention that Mead was a liberal American mother-goddess of the Spock era whose cult led her devotees to behave unscientifically when challenged by a rude Australian.



FRIDAY BOOK

THE FATEFUL HOAXING OF MARGARET MEAD

BY DEREK FREEMAN. WESTVIEW PRESS. £15.50

The scholarly issue - to what extent had a 24-year-old anthropologist been led to exaggerate sexual permissiveness among Samoan adolescent girls in her 1928 book, *Coming of Age in Samoa*? - is not of great intrinsic importance. But Mead was to become the first, and most successful, media anthropologist. She built for herself a unique position in American public life as social critic and ambassador for her discipline. (In Britain, she was never so much admired.)

Those who live by the media are often brought down thereby. When Freeman's earlier book was published, Harvard University Press hired a New York PR firm to handle his talk-show bookings. While proclaiming that his only goal is the truth, he has piggybacked on Mead's fame.

Freeman does show that Mead's research relied more on hunch than on rigour. Her close relationship with her professor, Franz Boas, did induce Mead to tailor her findings to his hypothesis: that adolescent behaviour was subject to cultural variables, rather than genetically determined. Boas, meanwhile, was over-indulgent towards a book written with Mead's enchanting literary facility.

Amusingly, Freeman records how Mead skipped on the focused research she had promised Boas because it required spending time with (in her words) "socially unimportant adolescents". Staying in US Navy premises for most of her fieldwork, she was treated as one of the governing elite from America and took on the persona of a visiting *taupou* or ceremonial virgin (concealing the fact that she had married two years previously).

Freeman's new material is partly based on a reconstitution from archives of Mead's itinerary, and partly on testimony sworn in the late Eighties by an old lady called Fa'apua'a, one of Mead's closest Samoan friends. She confessed that she and a girlfriend had engaged in recreational lying when they told Margaret that they spent their nights with boys.

Freeman builds an edifice upon one evening, 13 March 1986, when Mead is supposed to have been gulled by this teasing. But Fa'apua'a was a *taupou* herself and Mead knew quite well that a *taupou*'s virtue was carefully protected. Moreover, Fa'apua'a and her friend were in their mid-30s, as Mead was - not adolescents. Freeman shows literary flair himself in persuading the reader

that he is building up a watertight case, and he has succeeded in convincing some eminent natural scientists. But he remains a prosecuting attorney rather than an impartial historian.

It may well be that Mead's informants told her what they thought she wanted to hear, and that she did not cross-check the story. But many Samoans have come to resent their culture's reputation for sexual looseness, and this may have slanted Fa'apua'a's evidence in the Eighties. Also, America in the Twenties was quite strait-laced. Mead may have sussed out the reality of private sexual norms in Samoa, and confused these with public rules. In fact, Samoa seems to have been neither especially permissive nor especially restrictive.

Freeman concedes that Mead and Boas were not deliberately deceitful (they allowed extensive archives to be preserved) so much as "cognitively deluded". Though he oversimplifies Boas's position, Freeman has a point in criticising those anthropologists who think that culture somehow overrides biology. His own pleas for a reintegration of cultural anthropology and evolutionary biology are fine words, but he does not explain how the Samoan debate bears on the theoretical problems of today.

Mead insisted that her best-seller, *Coming of Age in Samoa*, should not be revised. It will survive as a literary rather than a scientific classic. And if she was duped? The mistakes people make at the age of 24 acquire public notoriety only if they later become famous.

There was nothing in her of the curmudgeon. In life, she was serially married to three anthropologists. Freeman, having found the key to her weak spot, has hypnotised himself to her as an endlessly replicating dun in the afterlife of publicity. A feature film must impend: Derek and Margaret, perhaps?

JONATHAN BENTHALL

The reviewer is director of the Royal Anthropological Institution

FRIDAY POEM

AN INDIAN SUMMER
BY DERYN REES-JONES

Sometimes it's as if we're lost,
A place on a map that no one can find.
And I have to invent us, over and over,
Give us names that we smile at:
Nova Nostalgia, Valentine Corner, Lost Love's Groove.
O my soft and freckled river!
I'm the Edwardian lady in an unmanned boat,
Lying on cushions, with the sun on her face,
Lazily trailing one ungloved hand.

Deryn Rees-Jones's second collection, *'Signs Round a Dead Body'*, is published at £6.95 by Seren, 2 Wyndham Street, Bridgend CF31 1EF

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سكزا من الاصل

Robert Barr

ROBERT BARR was an outstanding BBC war correspondent. In peacetime he moved over to television and became a leading writer and production executive. His work included *Z Cars*, *Softly, Softly* and *Moonstrike*. In 1959 he won the Italia Prize for his television documentary *Madico*, about the medical service to ships.

Barr's writing career began as a freelance reporter, before joining the staff of the *Daily Mail*. On the outbreak of the Second World War the BBC engaged him as war correspondent and sent him to cover North Sea convoys. Later he landed a plum job. He was one of the four correspondents specially picked from the world's press and radio to travel with and live alongside the Supreme Commander, General Dwight Eisenhower.

Barr was undergoing parachute training outside Manchester when he was told to meet a certain plane. Richard Dimbleby, the BBC's chief war correspondent, emerged from it and said "Don't look round, just get in. Everything has been arranged. They want you back in London." Barr found himself straightaway attached to Eisenhower's personal staff.

He described the paratroopers preparing for the D-Day armada:

Their faces were darkened with cocoa; sheathed knives were strapped to their ankles; handgrenades and hand grenades, coils of rope, pick handles, spades, rubber dinghies hung around them, and a few personal odds and ends like a teddy bear were tucked into their pockets. As they knelt round their padre in prayer, with bent heads and on one knee, the men with their equipment and camouflaged faces looked like some strange creatures from another world.

Barr was aboard HMS *Kelvin* which took Churchill, Sir Alan Brooke, Field Marshal Smuts, and others, over to Normandy shortly after D-Day. "About a quarter of a mile from the shore," he reported, "we drove through the water and up on the beach where General Montgomery was waiting with three jeeps. The *Kelvin* edged her way past Nelson and *Ranulph* and took up a position right on the German flank. Here the order was given: 'Three salvoes into the German lines'. Mr Churchill, cigar in the corner of his mouth, and his sea cap on the back of his head, smiled and

raised his binoculars. And the guns of HMS *Kelvin* began to pound the German positions."

When the General entered Paris Barr left Eisenhower's staff. In 1945 he became a radio features producer and the following year switched to television. When he returned for a visit to Broadcasting House a senior sound producer ran into him at the door. "Good Lord, I thought you were dead," "No I'm not," said Barr. "No? Ah, yes, gone to television, same thing, old chap." That was before the Coronation in 1953, when television for the first time had a bigger audience than radio.

Barr wrote and produced the first documentary ever written for BBC television, *Germany Under Control*, and followed it with another documentary about the Berlin airlift, using a German television crew.

From his fertile pen came such excellent series as *Z Cars*, *Softly, Softly* and *Spycatcher*. The format for *Z Cars* had been written by Troy Kennedy Martin. Another closely involved with the series was Barr's boss Elwyn Jones. Barr was the Executive Producer. *Z Cars*, though well received by both the critics and the public, at first caused a certain amount of consternation among the police.

"It was the policemen's wives," disclosed Barr. "They said to their husbands 'You don't carry on like Charlie Barlow do you?' The husbands reassuringly said 'No dear', adding that Charlie Barlow wouldn't last three days in a police force. But

The audience figures of Z Cars climbed from 9 to 14 million in the first eight weeks. The public was ready to accept the police were not all PC Dixon types who helped old ladies across the road

after a little while they'd start to say 'Remember old so-and-so? He was just like Charlie Barlow'."

The audience figures of *Z Cars* climbed from nine to 14 million in the first eight weeks. The public was ready to accept that the police were



Barr was one of four correspondents to travel with General Dwight Eisenhower in 1944

not all fatherly PC Dixon types who helped old ladies across the road and always had a sweet for a lost child. The intended first run of 13 was ex-

actly what Barr was doing when he wrote the series. He wrote another called *I Want to be an Actor* produced by the then Head of Drama Michael Barry, who much enjoyed, according to Barr, the freedom to talk about the script with its writer and discuss ways to improve it.

Barr regularly used to include real people in his dramatic scripts. For instance, in a programme about a hospital ward he engaged eight genuine nurses with his cast of actors. Their task was to give the authentic touch of bedmaking in the ward which had been recreated in the studio.

In another programme, with a trial scene including pronouncement of the death sentence, he used a man who had for years been clerk to the Lord Chief Justice; his job was to place a black cap on the actor-judge's head. Only one who had seen

this happen again and again could - in Barr's opinion - do the action correctly. Barr used to admit that his aim in television documentaries was to interest people in other people rather than to explain some aspect of life in sociological terms.

Barr spent his retirement on the Isle of Bute, which had long been his favourite home. He had done most of his writing there, though he always went to London for his research.

LEONARD MIALI

Robert Barr, war correspondent and television scriptwriter; born Glasgow 22 December 1909; joined BBC 1939; correspondent covering North Sea Convoys, then special correspondent with *Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Force* 1944; Italia Prize 1959; married 1936 Janet Cornell (died 1986; one daughter); died Isle of Bute 30 January 1999.

Zibby Garnett

ZIBBY GARNETT was a countrywoman who used her knowledge of all the applied arts that make great houses shine to steer at least two of them into calmer water. Through the Nineties she was immersed in the conservation of decorative arts, first at the Lincoln College of Art and Design and later, after their merger, within De Montfort University.

She was a great self-improver who read for the pleasure of it but found the means to bring most of what she learned to good use. By the time she reached Lincoln she had learned her trade in the dismantling of one of the Dukeries (several ducal houses in a small area of Nottinghamshire), Thoresby, 84,000 square feet of "muscular Victorian eclecticism" by Anthony Salvin. In 1980 it had been passed to British Coal which preferred to be the owner of its problems rather than answerable to others for the subsidence their undermining was causing. By 1988 they wanted shot of it and exercised the right to move the family, still in occupation, out of it.

Zibby Garnett was ready, having finished a good, but less than half-complete, catalogue of the contents, and then put method into the selection of what should be kept for use in a new building and what should go for sale. She was, alone, the person prepared to know about each object, the part it played in the overall scheme of decoration and how it related to the remainder. She informed every decision that was later taken to preserve the core collection from several thousand objects.

She was fastidious enough to be offended by a bad fit within a decorative scheme or, equally, by bad planting. She baffled everyone at Thoresby by complaining of the tea roses planted on the terrace which were of obvious vigour and unprecedented display. "They are tea roses only hybridised after 1945 and quite out of place in a parterre designed by Nesfield in 1868." But she was never



Offended by bad planting

a bore or pedant. Because her purist tendency was the product of her enthusiasm and excitement in the subject she carried the audience with her.

She left Thoresby before the roses had been replanted to join an English Heritage team that was bringing Brodsworth, near Doncaster, back to life after its period asleep. This meant applying the same skills and discretion to build up, to get the fabric cleaned and replaced, to see the spirit of the place emerge again.

Lincoln was an obvious next step. There she made a temporary, freelance assignment into a permanent role. Although her work was chiefly administrative she was, at the least, unusual in having no higher qualifications at all. She had received an education and lifelong values, if few exams, in her convent schooling at St Hilda's, Whitby, while growing up in the North East.

After coming on to the staff at Lincoln she led an HND course and later set up a new research department, the "Centre for Conservation Studies". It was perhaps an obvious choice when De Montfort wanted to take the new school up in the world they should ask Garnett to create from nothing the international links and to set up the student exchanges that would prompt the cross-fertilisation arts education depends on. Through that she found friends in Europe and India and would, had she lived, no doubt have extended this range throughout the world.

She always treasured new interests and tasks as a means to make new and proper friendships wherever she landed. This was not a planned career cut short by the cancer that hunted her for 12 years but a journey from one interesting place to another with plenty to get on with as she went. Outside her paid work she was taken up with causes centred on the arts and architecture, although her membership of the Diocesan Synod hardly fits that definition and, here also, in spite of her own modest assessment of her abilities others saw fit to push her into the lead.

At home in Norwell, a small red-brick village north of Newark, where she came in 1977 with her husband, David Garnett, they gave creative life to many of the interests and principles they shared. They showed how a proper knowledge of plants and their history can lead to an infinitely more stimulating effect than the ignorant motivated only by a sense of colour or immediate impression.

HUGH MATHESON

Elizabeth Pamela Stock, arts administrator; born Newcastle 14 October 1944; married 1971 David Garnett; died Norwell, Nottinghamshire 15 January 1999.

Charles Davis

ON 21 December 1966 Charles Davis, the best-known Catholic theologian in Britain and editor of *The Clergy Review*, announced that he was leaving the Roman Catholic Church in which he had ceased to believe. He was also about to marry an old friend, Florence Henderson, a member of the Grail, an international society of committed Catholic women. He had made the first decision before telling Florence. It was as much a surprise to her as to everyone else.

The news took both the Catholic Church and England by storm. Davis had given the Maurice Lectures at King's College London a few months before, the first Catholic to do so, and they had just been published as *God's Grace in History* (1966). He had also recently been appointed Professor of Theology at the new Jesuit-run university college of Heythrop in Oxfordshire, after years of teaching at St Edmund's Seminary, Ware. How could this apparent volte-face be explained?

Davis was born in 1923 in Swindon. He early resolved to be-

come a priest and from the age of 15 lived in one or another seminary, large institutional communities, easily fostering loneliness beneath an atmosphere of superficial camaraderie. He was ordained a priest in 1946 for Westminster archdiocese and was allowed just two years of further theological study at the Gregorian University in Rome, before being appointed to teach theology at Ware, where he had himself studied, and then remained as Professor until the summer of 1965.

I remember visiting him there and being struck, not only by the clarity and conviction of his thinking, but also by a noticeable cultural narrowness. Despite his quite exceptional intelligence, he was never given the chance of serious university study or of tackling any field apart from Catholic systematic theology.

But for many years he hardly felt the constraints. No one seemed more moderate in his advocacy of new ideas, more absolutely loyal to the system. Even the intellectual up-

Suddenly Davis felt the dreary clerical weight of the system, with its heavily authoritarian dimensions, intolerable and pointless

heaval that went with the Second Vatican Council (1962-65), while it stimulated his thinking and gave him many opportunities to lecture in Britain and abroad, to the enormous benefit, especially of lay groups, had not seemed to radicalise him unduly.

Yet suddenly Davis felt the dreary clerical weight of the system, with



its heavily authoritarian dimensions, simply intolerable and pointless. While he abandoned Roman Catholicism, he remained, he insisted, a Christian, though refusing to join any other church.

After a brief visiting fellowship at Clare College, Cambridge, where he wrote *A Question of Conscience* (1967) to explain his decision, he was

offered a professorship at the University of Alberta, Edmonton, to begin a new Department of Religious Studies. In 1970 he moved to the University of Concordia, Montreal, where he chaired its Department of Religious Studies for 15 years. He was also President of the Canadian Society for the Study of Religion. He retired and returned to Britain in 1991.

The world he and his wife had chosen to inhabit seemed at first a "desert" through which to find a Christian way, unsupported by the ecclesiastical institution which had hitherto so completely controlled his life. They did it with characteristic earnestness, ever hospitable, intellectually open, yet devout. Charles himself baptised his children, initiating them into an informal "house church", but without withdrawing from public worship.

After a period of attending the Anglican cathedral in Montreal, they found themselves little by little gravitating back towards the Catholic community, helped by many Catholic friends. Registering at one

international conference he was expected to name his church. "What should I say?" asked Davis nervously of Raimundo Panikkar, next to him in the queue. "Roman Catholic, of course," was the reply, and that is what he wrote.

A series of books appeared over the years, notably his Cambridge Hulsean Lectures of 1978, *Theology and Political Society* and his final work, *Religion and the Making of Society* (1994). Ever since 1966 he had been impressed, perhaps over-impressed, by the importance of sociology and the fact of "secularisation". How to free religion in modernity from the destructive dichotomy between sacred and secular?

While he never regretted the stern decision of 1966, which brought him personal liberation and much happiness, Charles Davis was able in his final years to become a very regular communicant at Catholic eucharists both in Cambridge and in Edinburgh, where he died after struggling for eight years with Parkinson's disease.

ADRIAN HASTINGS

Charles Alfred Davis, theologian; born Swindon, Wiltshire 12 February 1923; ordained priest 1946; Professor of Dogmatic Theology, St Edmund's Seminary, Ware 1952-65; Professor of Theology, Heythrop University College 1965-66; Professor of Religious Studies, University of Alberta, Edmonton 1967-70; Professor of Religious Studies, Concordia University, Montreal, 1970-91; Principal, Lonergan College, 1987-91; married 1967 Florence Henderson (one son, one daughter); died Edinburgh 28 January 1999.

Rear-Admiral Otto Steiner

OTTO STEINER, acronically OHMS and whose German given names - Ottokar Harold Majmír St John Steiner - led to many a reference to the Navy List, was descended from a Central European family rooted in the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

Born in 1916, he entered the Royal Navy from St Paul's School as a public school special entry cadet in 1935. He first went to sea in the light cruiser *Orion* and then in the heavier town-class *Southern*. Not content with what the Fleet provided, he joined the newly formed Royal Naval Sailing Association in 1937 before being commissioned as a sub-lieutenant in March 1938. Within a year he was junior officer in the modern destroyer *Ilex* which, with her sister *Imogen*, sank U42 in the Western Approaches on 13 October 1939.

Three months later he moved to the older *Howell* which played a

notable part in the unfortunate Norwegian campaign of 1940. It is said that her modest fire power was augmented by the mountain howitzers of a French unit supporting two alpine battalions outside Narvik, mounted on her upper deck.

Nevertheless, she was soon reduced to extricating troops, first from Norway to Scotland and then from Lorient in France to Plymouth. Steiner received his first mention in despatches for his part in sinking the Italian submarine *Foa di Bruno* off Gibraltar on 8 November 1940; his second was in 1941 for his work in saving the French destroyer *Le Triomphant*.

After a torpedo course at Portsmouth he joined the elderly cruiser *Proteus* in the East Indies; he returned for another six months to Portsmouth, in Vernon, this time in the electrical department. Until the electrical branch of the Navy was es-

tablished later in the war, torpedo officers were responsible for the Navy's use of the "subtle and humpbacked fluid" as a pensioner CPO once described electricity.

Steiner finished the war as a Lieutenant-Commander in the new cruiser *Superb*. The Admiralty, mindful of the Geddes axe after the First World War, had granted wartime commissions to so-called RNVRO officers (much to the fury of many pre-war members), and this meant an easier demobilisation, with no bungle of officers whose services were literally no longer required.

But competition between surviving professionals was as keen as ever. Much depended on the pattern of an officer's appointments, and Steiner was well served by his appointments. He took the naval staff course in 1947 and then went to the staff of the C-in-C, Far East Fleet until he was promoted Commander

in 1950. He then went as executive officer in the cruiser *Ceylon*, where his Captain was Roy Foster-Brown, and then to *Doedalus*, the naval air station at Lee-on-Solent.

These appointments were interspersed with the Joint Services Staff Course and attendance at the Nato Defence College, and culminated in his promotion to Captain in 1956 after only six years, which was good going. He had one job in the Admiralty, rationalising the underwater research and development work in *Osprey* at Portland, before going to command the Battle class destroyer *Saintes* and the third destroyer squadron, 1958-60.

There followed two agreeable years as naval adviser to the British High Commission in Canada, where he presented the Steiner Cup, still contested between British and Canadian crews, and when he returned for the Senior Officers War

Course in 1962. From Belgrave Square he went to sea for his last command, the light Fleet carrier *Centaur*. This was enhanced by a swift and successful demonstration of seapower. The army of the new republic in Tanganyika mutinied. *Centaur* raced to Aden to embark a Royal Marine Commando and a flight of helicopters and, rendezvousing with the destroyer *Cambrian*, quashed an incipient insurrection in Dar es Salaam.

In 1965 Steiner was ADC to the Queen, the following year he was promoted to the flag list and he was appointed CB in 1967. From 1966 until he retired in 1968 he was an Assistant Chief of the Central Defence Staff. He then turned in 30 years of active and happy retirement. Sailing had always been his great pleasure. He lost little time on leaving the Navy in promoting and organising the RNSEA's Whitbread

Round the World race, sponsored by the brewing firm.

The first race was held in 1972-73, after Steiner had directed the arrangements for the four parts - one was longer than any event up to that time. He became Vice-Commodore of the Association in time for the first race, and stepped down as Commodore after the second in 1977. He was always in demand as skipper or spare crew, but never to the detriment of the Shipwrecked Fishermen and Mariners' Royal Benevolent Society, which he served as chairman for 20 years.

A. B. SAINSBURY

Ottokar Harold Majmír St John Steiner, naval officer; born 8 July 1916; CB 1967; married 1940 Evelyn Young (died 1994; one son, one daughter; marriage dissolved 1975); 1975 Eleanor Powell (one stepson); died 27 December 1998.



In demand as a skipper

by Garnett

Jeanne-Marie Darré

JEANNE-MARIE Darré was one of this century's foremost representatives of the French school of pianism, combining its concern with precision and clarity with a sympathy for large-scale Romantic gesture - she was, in Nicolas Slonimsky's words, "a virtuoso in a grand manner".

Darré was born in Givet, close to the French border with Belgium, in 1905 and until the age of 10 took lessons from her mother. Her first important teacher was Marguerite Long. In whose preparatory class at the Paris Conservatoire she won a premier prix in 1917. She then went on to study with the doyen of French piano-teachers, Isidore Philipp, winning the premier prix in his class in 1919 and subsequently studying with him privately.

Philipp would assign his students exercises to remedy particular shortcomings rather than a doctor prescribes medicine for given diseases, and in an interview with Charles Timbrell for his book *French Pianism: a historical perspective* (1992), Darré recalled how he helped her compensate for her small hands; she would spend hours and hours on technique every day, well beyond the two or three that Philipp recommended. She explained her teachers' principal concern:

Finger technique is what Long and Philipp were about. Very clear articulation was obtained from exercises with high fingers that strike fast into the keys. Of course, it is very important to have a relaxed wrist.

Darré implemented this approach from a position that was unusually high above the keyboard.

The American pianist Grant Johansen, again in conversation with Charles Timbrell, declared that "Jeanne-Marie Darré has been the best example of what the old French school was all about. She had a certain reserve about her playing and a wonderful petite technique of fingers and wrists. But she was also drawn to the big literature, and was not shy and precious, as some French pianists have been."

Darré made her Paris debut at the age of 20, playing a generous programme of Galuppi, Couperin, Beethoven, Chopin, Liszt, Henselt, Moszkowski, Chabrier, her teacher Philipp, and Schubert/Busoni - the kind of healthily eclectic mix that today's purists primly avoid. She had begun her recording career even earlier, making a number of Vocalion 78s in 1923, when she was only 18; the composers chosen were Bach, Weber, Mendelssohn, Sch-

mann and Saint-Saëns, who had died only two years previously.

In the event, Saint-Saëns - to whom Darré had played his own music, as she did theirs to Fauré and Ravel - was to play a substantial role in her life. In 1926 she was catapulted to prominence, when, aged only 21, with the Lamoureux Orchestra conducted by Paul Paray, she played all five Saint-Saëns concertos in a single evening, a feat she repeated on other occasions. But Darré was fond of tackling head-on a composer's work in a particular genre: she would happily programme all the Chopin Preludes and Etudes in a single recital.

Darré's career was largely confined to France until, in February 1962, she made her US debut at Carnegie Hall in New York, with Charles Munch and the

'Her playing at all times manifests an interest in neat, finely grounded pianism; each nut and bolt is squarely placed'

Boston Symphony Orchestra accompanying her in her beloved Saint-Saëns - this time only the Second Concerto. She made a considerable impact. The *New York Times* critic Harold C. Schonberg, a judicious connoisseur of pianists, found her "an exciting, formidable, electric virtuoso, who can do anything at the keyboard and do it with aplomb. But it is not all technique. She has complete tonal control, and a massive sonority."

Over the next 20 years she returned regularly to the US, before retiring from the concert stage in the early 1980s. She was an infrequent visitor to Britain, last appearing in 1974 at the Royal Festival Hall at a gala concert in aid of the International Piano Library; unsurprisingly, she played Saint-Saëns - the Toccata, Op 111, which was her *pièce de résistance*.

The conductors she worked with form a roll-call of some of the most important names of the century: as well as the composers Gabriel Pierné, Vincent d'Indy (whose *Symphonie cévenole* she recorded on 78s) and



Darré played all five Saint-Saëns concertos in one evening Dover

Philippe Gaubert, there were André Cluytens, Henry Wood, Gregor Fiebigler, George Szell, Eugene Ormandy, Ernest Ansermet and Constantin Silvestri.

Darré was not a frequent visitor to the studio, although she made a number of respected recordings which testify to her prodigious ability. In the late 1950s, with Louis Fourestier and the Orchestre National de la Radiodiffusion Française, she recorded, of course, the five Saint-Saëns concertos, as well as his Septet - a set which has recently been re-released on CD by EMI France. The American label Vanguard has just issued two recordings from around the same time: a disc of the Chopin Waltzes and another featuring the Liszt Sonata.

That work was one of Darré's specialties. In his book *The Art of the Piano* (1990), David Dubal explained what was so special about her Liszt:

She thrives in objective scores, such as the Ravel G major Concerto, Weber's Konzertstück, or any of the Saint-Saëns concertos for which she is famous. At her best, she is alert

and glittering, possessing a dryness of tone that is characteristic of French pianism in general. At her worst, she sounds curt, even heartless. Her playing at all times manifests an interest in neat, finely grounded pianism; each nut and bolt is squarely placed.

Her prime achievement on record is a fascinating portrayal of the Liszt Sonata, which she spins out to 33 minutes, 20 seconds. Darré has placed this complex puzzle under her microscope and dissected its every fragment. She strips the massive work of its usual Faustian rumblings and bombast, giving us the quintessential French Liszt Sonata: slim, linear, and controlled from first note to last.

Jeanne-Marie Darré was not a prophet without honour in her own country. In 1968 she was appointed professor of piano at the Paris Conservatoire. In 1966 she was made an Officer of the Légion d'honneur and, a year later, a Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres.

MARTIN ANDERSON

Jeanne-Marie Darré, pianist; born Givet, France 30 July 1905; died Paris, France 26 January 1999.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES G.I. BROWN

An explosive element of modern civilisation

EXPLOSIVES HAVE provided the world's most powerful source of portable energy for almost a millennium.

The story of explosives begins with gunpowder, ranked by Thomas Carlyle, along with printing and the Protestant religion, as one of "the three great elements of modern civilisation". Because it looks like soot, gunpowder is commonly known as black powder; it consists of a mixture of potassium nitrate, sulphur and charcoal.

It was almost certainly invented in China in the middle of the ninth century AD, and it was first used there in fireworks to frighten away evil spirits. It was probably introduced into the Western world by Roger Bacon about 1250 AD, using an enigmatic anagram to hide its composition. Although it was far from perfect, it was the only explosive to be used for practical purposes for around 600 years.

Thereafter, from around 1870, it was replaced by the so-called high explosives or nitro-compounds. The first two were nitrocellulose or gun cotton and dynamite, made from nitroglycerine, but they were followed, over the years, by blasting gelatine, gelignite, Lyddite, TNT, RDX, PETN, HMX, and HNIW.

Important events in the history of explosives include the methods of testing gunpowder, which, surprisingly, led to the invention of the steam engine; the early development of cannons and

hand guns; the downfall of the Byzantine empire, in 1453, when new-fangled gunpowder proved to be more effective than the old Greek fire; the advance of the Moguls into northern India in 1526; the overthrow of the Incas in Peru, the Aztecs in Mexico, the Red Indians in America, the Aborigines in Australia, and the Maoris in New Zealand; the collapse of the feudal system in Britain; the defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1588; the edict of King Charles I, in 1626, that "his loving subjects... shall keep and preserve all the urine of man" to provide potassium nitrate; the rise and fall of the American Powder Trust; the American Civil War; the great British shell shortage at the start of the First World War; the dropping of the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki to end the Second World War; the post-war development of the hydrogen bomb; and the use of Semtex by terrorists.

The formidable Alfred Nobel, born in Stockholm in 1833, played a major role in the story. He invented the patent detonator, dynamite, blasting gelatine, gelignite, and ballistite, and, on his death in 1896, he ruled a world-wide empire with 93 factories, and his estate was valued at £2m.

Nobel's English contemporary was Sir Frederick Abel, the Chief Chemist to the War Office, who devised a safe method of making gun cotton and invented cordite. Guy Fawkes is an infamous member of the rolecall for his activities on 5 November 1605; Sir William Congreve for his invention of early rockets at the start of the 19th century; the du Pont family, who fled from France to America, in 1800, and established a gunpowder factory in Wilmington, Delaware, which has grown into today's vast international organisation.

One, the Rev Alexander Forsyth, thanks to his enjoyment of shooting wildfowl in Scotland invented the percussion cap which revolutionised the firing of guns, in 1805; Thomas Bickford, a Devonian leather merchant, invented safety fuse, which greatly reduced the risk in the setting off of explosives; the American, Charles E. Munroe, made shaped charges; Chaim Weizmann, saved the day, in 1915, by inventing a method of making acetone from conkers, and eventually became the first President of the State of Israel; and the international team of scientists, led by Robert Oppenheimer and General Leslie Groves, brought the Manhattan Project, which developed atomic bombs, to fruition during the Second World War.

What they achieved, in a unique field of technology, has greatly affected all our lives.

G.I. Brown is the author of *The Big Bang - a history of explosives* (Sutton, £19.99)

Frederick Sommer

FREDERICK SOMMER was a photographer who influenced generations with his distinctive, often surreal, images of collages, horizons, landscapes, blurry nudes and cameraless abstractions. Often described as a gadfly, an eccentric and a photographer's photographer, Sommer worked in Arizona for more than 50 years before surrendering his relative obscurity. In the last few years of his life, to photography collectors and museums.

His low profile stemmed from 1950s attitudes to photography when many of the established photographers favoured a documentary and aesthetically easy approach to photography and dismissed Sommer's work as unphotogenic and unpleasant. His critics were particularly offended by a photograph he had taken in 1939 of an amputated leg and foot, as well as a series he took in the desert in

the 1930s and 1940s of dead animals and other detritus. That series included chicken parts carefully arranged to form strange new shapes.

Sommer photographed recreations of other artists' work decades before the practice became an established routine in post-modernism. He would tear lithographs apart and then recombine the bits and pieces to form new images; he constructed surrealist compositions out of dismantled dolls and, in the 1960s, created abstract, cameraless images out of candle smoke deposits or oil paint pressed between sheets of cellophane.

Sommer was born in Italy in 1905, and was an avid student of art and philosophy who early on displayed a gift for drawing, although he initially set out to be a landscape architect. He grew up in Rio de Janeiro where his father had es-

tablished a landscape architecture firm. Sommer later received a master's degree in landscape architecture at Cornell University.

In the early 1930s, he taught drawing and design in New York. Then, in 1935, he showed his work to the photographer and dealer Alfred Stieglitz, who encouraged him to form a fresh view of photography in relation to art.

A later meeting with Edward Weston led him to replace smaller cameras with a larger, 8-by-10-inch view camera, with which he began to take pictures of what he found in and about Prescott, Arizona, where he then lived with his wife, Frances. At a party in California in 1941, Sommer met the Surrealist Max Ernst and from then on the surreal became a defining component of his work.

In the 1970s, when the market for fine-art photography was still in its infancy,

Sommer joined the Light Gallery, one of only two galleries in New York devoted to photography at the time. In 1976, the Center for Creative Photography in Tucson acquired a major collection of his photographs.

However, it was only in the last few years that critics, curators and collectors seem to have finally discovered Sommer and his work is now offered at auction. In 1992, the Nazarelli Press in Tucson, Arizona, published a book of his work, *All Children are Ambassadors*, and two years later the Getty Museum acquired more than 100 of his photographs and collages, and held an exhibition of his work.

EDWARD HELMERE

Frederick Sommer, photographer; born 1905; married; died Prescott, Arizona 23 January 1999.

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

DEATHS

JANES: artist, Alfred George Jones, peacefully after a short illness, at King's College Hospital, on Wednesday 3 February. Dearly loved husband of Mary and father of Ross and Hilary, and grandfather of Alexander. Private funeral. Memorial service in London to be arranged.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In memoriam) are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements (notices, functions, forthcoming marriages, Marriages), which are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra.

The Independent's main switchboard number is 0171-293 2000.

FORTHCOMING MARRIAGES

Mr N. Tyce and Miss H. Nimmo Smith. The engagement is announced between Nathaniel, elder son of Mr and Mrs Ian Tyce, of Maidstone, Kent, and Harriet, daughter of Lord and Lady Nimmo Smith, of Edinburgh.

BIRTHDAYS

Mr Red Buttons, actor and comedian, 80; Lord Gibson,

former chairman, the National Trust, 83; Miss Susan Hill, novelist and playwright, 57; The Hon Douglas Hogg QC MP, 54; Miss Melanie Johnson MP, 44; Professor Adam Neville, former Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Dundee University, 76; Mr Nick Palmer MP, 49; The Very Rev Colin Semper, former Canon of Westminster, 61; Sir Rodney Sweetnam, former orthopaedic surgeon to the Queen, 72; Lord Williams of Mostyn QC, Parliamentary Under-Secretary, Constitution, 58.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Prince of Wales opens the new Clarendon College, Nottingham; visits the Macdonald Trust's Albion Nightshelter, Nottingham; visits the Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham; and visits Park

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Sir Robert Peel, statesman, 1788; "Patsy" Elias H. Hendren, cricketer, 1889. Deaths: Thomas Carlyle, writer and historian, 1881; Emeric Pressburger, film producer, 1988. On this day: the Spanish captured Minorca from the British, 1782; the Royal Air Force College was founded at Cranwell, Lincolnshire, 1920. Today is the Feast Day of St Adelaide of Bellich, St Agatha, St Avitus of Vienne, St Bertulph or Bertoul of Renty, Saints

Indractus and Dominica and St Vodalus or Vuel.

SYNAGOGUE SERVICES

Details of synagogue services to be held tomorrow may be obtained by telephoning the following. Sabbath begins in London at 4.42pm. United Synagogue: 0181-243 2388. Federation of Synagogues: 0181-252 2252. Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues: 0171-580 1822. Reform Synagogues of Great Britain: 0181-248 4721. Spanish and Portuguese Jews Congregation: 0171-288 3872.

Buckinghamshire; and visits Blease Anaesthesia Systems, Chesham.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

Beer tie agreement ceased to be void

WHEREAS AS a result of a change of circumstances, a prohibition on a beer tie agreement imposed by Article 85(1) of the EC Treaty no longer applied as between the parties to the agreement, the agreement between them ceased to be void under Article 85(2).

The Court of Appeal upheld the decision of Laddie J that a beer tie in a lease held by the plaintiff was enforceable. The plaintiff was tenant of a public house under a lease granted by the second defendant, IPL, which contained a tie requiring the lessee to purchase beer from IPL and no other supplier.

On 29 July 1992 the reversion of the lease was transferred by IPL to the first defendant, Morland. The plaintiff's solicitor wrote to Morland stating that the beer tie contained in the lease was void *ab initio* as a result of the provisions of Article 85 of the EC Treaty, and that it remained so irrespective of the identity of the owner of the freehold reversion, so that the tie was unenforceable by Morland.

Article 85(1) provided that all agreements between undertakings, decisions by associations of undertakings, which might affect trade between member states and which had as their object or effect the prevention, restriction or distortion of competition within the common market "shall be prohibited" as incompatible with the common market. Article 85(2) provided that agreements or decisions so prohibited "shall be automatically void".

The plaintiff commenced proceedings against the de-

FRIDAY LAW REPORT

5 FEBRUARY 1999

Passmore v Morland plc and others

Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Beldam, Lord Justice Potter and Lord Justice Chadwick) 2 February 1999

tenants claiming, *inter alia*, damages for breach of Article 85(1) and restitution of sums alleged to have been unlawfully charged by Morland. Morland issued a summons to strike out the plaintiff's claim on the ground that it disclosed no reasonable cause of action.

The judge held that as and when the obligations created by the lease between IPL and the plaintiff gave rise to effects prohibited by Article 85(1) it became a nullity in the sense that they were absolutely unenforceable between the parties. The effect of the assignment between IPL and Morland was to pass those obligations to the latter and since, in Morland's hands, they were inoffensive, they were enforceable. The plaintiff's claim was accordingly struck out. The plaintiff appealed.

Gerald Barrington QC and Mark Brealey (Maidland Walker, Milledale) for the plaintiff; Nicholas Green QC and Aidan Robertson (Kimbell & Co, Milton Keynes) for the defendants.

Lord Justice Chadwick said that Article 85(1) of the EC

Treaty only prohibited agreements and concerted practices which had a particular offensive economic objective or effect.

Each agreement or clause in an agreement had to be examined in the factual context in which it was to be operated in order to decide whether it was within the prohibition. It followed that an agreement which was not within Article 85(1) at the time when it was entered into might subsequently, and as a result of a change in circumstances, come within the prohibition. It must also follow that an agreement which was within the prohibition at the time when it was entered into might subsequently, and as a result of a change in circumstances, fall outside the prohibition.

Article 85(2) had to be construed in conjunction with Article 85(1), in particular in the light of an appreciation that the prohibition in Article 85(1) was temporary or transient rather than absolute, in the sense that it endured for a finite period of time rather than for all time. The nullity imposed by Article 85(1) was an exact reflection of the prohibition imposed by Article 85(1); accordingly, if the prohibition was temporary or transient, so was the nullity.

In the present case, as a result of the change in circumstances when the reversion in the tenancy passed to Morland, the prohibition no longer applied as between the parties to the agreement, and the agreement between them accordingly ceased to be void.

KATE O'HANLON Barrister

WORDS

CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE dissolve, v.

The book continues in this sour, ramshackle way, but has some interest, as in Allen's describing his marriage to Louise Lasser as

dissolved. She's furious. "Dissolved"? I like that. A divorce is a cut-off, whereas 'dissolved' means it gradually goes into something different." Wrong - Allen has Chaucer and the Brontës, among others, on his side. Ms Lasser is perhaps thinking of the cinematic term: an apt one for Allen's lingering with past loves.

It's enough to make an atheist cry 'Hallelujah!'

IN A theatrical show in which the performer asks the audience to clap and shout, it usually takes several goes to get a response, and yells of "come on, we can do better than that", while half the audience mutters "um ber ahub", painfully embarrassed. But at the London City evangelical church service in Notting Hill, everyone leaps up, sings, claps and waves furiously from the start. God, whether he exists or not, is a master of audience participation.

The second song was clearly a favourite, as everyone cheered after the opening bar, the way a Barry Manilow audience would for "Mandy". The words to this jolly, clappy sing-along came up on a screen: "The Lord reigns over us / He burns all his enemies / And the hills melt like wax / La la la la la."

If evangelists want to set the Bible to music, it might be more fitting as a series of heavy-metal songs. The riff from Black Sabbath's "Paranoid", for instance, springs to mind as perfect backing for the line, "People say he's vengeful because he has drowned the human race."

After three songs came a session of topical prayers. A preacher, contorting and undulating with emotion, implored the congregation to pray to the Lord to help the people of Colombia as they suffer from that earthquake. The room became filled with whoops of "amen", "oh yes", and "we pray to you Lord". Suddenly you couldn't help feeling humble. Whether or not you believe that these prayers would achieve anything, here were hundreds of people selfishly reaching inside themselves in the sincere hope that their pleading would be heard. Which has to have the edge on glancing at the news, saying "Oo, isn't it dreadful" and turning over for the snooker.

Kosovo, too, got a lengthy mention. Then Bill Clinton - "Pray, oh pray, we pray to you, Jesus, to bring peace into that country and their President as they face difficult times." Strangely though - and a little unfairly, I thought - there was nothing for Monica.

What happens to this section of the service, I wondered, in weeks when there isn't much in the news? Does the preacher say,

"We pray, oh Lord Jesus, we pray for the Undersecretary of State for Agriculture, rumoured to be facing demotion in the forthcoming Cabinet reshuffle"? And with their inside sources, you'd think they'd have known in advance what was coming to Glenn Hoddle.

Next came a solo from an excellent soul singer, and then the announcement: "And now for this week's offering." I can't be the only person who's been at their first evangelical service, heard this announcement and thought, "Bloody hell, they're going to carve up a goat."

It turns out to be the collection. But even this part of the service reveals something of the Pentecostal church's appeal. The money bag is handed around amidst a fiery philosophical sermon, dealing with the nature of giving and Abel's self-centred offering to God. Whereas Church of England collections involve a bald vicar asking whether you could stump up a bit extra this week, as he had to call the plumber out to fix the boiler during coffee morning.

The whole show crackles with passion. Whereas God must look

MARK STEEL



ON LOCATION

at the Church of England, its groaning suburban hymns, turgid sermons and twee parish newsletters, and think "Is that it? I created the world and heaven and destroyed cities and burned my enemies, and you think you can impress with a jumble sale and a harvest bloody festival?"

Preacher Colin Dye steams through a 50-minute sermon, using jokes and impressions, not failing to include in his performance a TV camera, which beams the service across Europe. He never stumbles, and he uses no notes and no antecue. If he were to change his subject

matter, the BBC would surely sack Carol Vorderman and offer him any show he liked.

Many are puzzled that so many people seem convinced by the apparently irrational arguments of evangelical Christianity. But the first part of Colin's sermon confirmed Marx's view, that religion's appeal is as the "heart in a heartless world".

Colin spoke of Saint Peter helping a beggar, adding that for Christians to win over the poor spiritually, they had to want to help them financially. True Christians always assist the poor and the sick, insisted Colin. What a contrast to around the corner where, within testifying distance of the church, lives a recently deposed Cabinet Minister, whose sermons argued that for New Labour to win over wealthy businessmen spiritually, they had to want to help them financially. Which led the minister to pour scorn and contempt upon the poor, even secretly borrowing much gold to purchase a temple.

So it could almost make an atheist believe... When lo, the very temple from which he preached did smite him down and now it's up for sale again.

After the service there was coffee and biscuits for potential converts. My first question was: "Those prayers for Colombia, wouldn't they have been more useful last week? You know, before the earthquake happened?" The woman I was asking walked off.

Then I spoke to Marie-Anne who, with great zeal and charm, tried to convert me, plucking quotes from the Bible for every occasion. Sex outside marriage was sin, because God created Eve for Adam. And all the dinosaur fossils and big bang theories in the universe wouldn't shift her from that.

It crossed my mind to try and argue that the laws of the Bible were products of their times, that rules forbidding pork, for example, weren't there because of a holy squirminess on behalf of pigs, but because it was unsafe at the time to eat it. It would be like starting a religion with the rules of today, and in 2,000 years' time people still saying, "Verily thou shalt not partake of English beef on the bone, for the cow's moo is the moo of the devil..."

Instead, I asked Marie-Anne what would happen if she failed

to convert me. "Phoooh," she said, nodding her head and pulling a face like a car mechanic about to tell you the whole gearbox has to come out. "Then I'm afraid it's Hell."

"What, for ever?" I asked. "I'm afraid so," she said, sympathetically. Then she added, "You see, God might be lenient on souls who have never heard His word. But you've been here now, so for you still not to believe means you've rejected Him."

"Blimey," I said. "So now I'm in an even worse state than before." She giggled a bit and said "I'm afraid so" again. Then she prayed for me.

But does Marie-Anne really believe it? I'm not sure. Because if you did believe that, you wouldn't inform someone they were going to burn in molten damnation for all eternity by giggling and going "I'm afraid so". But if she's right, I'm going to find Saint Peter bureaucratically carrying on with his paperwork and signalling the bouncers to take me away, while I blubber. "Look, check your records. I only went to do an article for the Independent newspaper."

My father, the revolutionary



Iran's revolution 20 years ago sparked hopes of democracy for many exiles. But their dreams of return were soon destroyed. By Darius Sanai

Twenty years ago, I was lying in bed at home in north London, pretending to be ill in order to miss a maths test, when my father came bursting into the room. "The revolution - it's happening!" he exclaimed. "We can go back. We can go back to Iran!"

He told me he had been offered a post in the government led by Shahpur Bakhtiar, a liberal politician appointed by the Shah to keep the Ayatollah Khomeini from taking over. Dr Bakhtiar wanted my father to be either a minister or an adviser on education, which was his passion. I told my schoolfriends that I would soon be leaving for Tehran.

For the rest of that week, I came home every day from school and sat on my father's sofa as we listened to BBC World Service reports from Tehran. There were massive

demonstrations against Dr Bakhtiar's government. On his return from exile in France, the Ayatollah had been greeted by 2 million people. Friends in Iran told of mobs shouting "Death to America", attacking anyone wearing Western clothes. The new government was virtually powerless.

In the evenings, my father was constantly on the phone to friends and relatives in Iran. By the end of the week, I kept hearing the same, doleful snatches of conversation. "So is it really getting that bad? You think Bakhtiar's going to go? You really think he has no chance?"

A couple of days after that, the Ayatollah announced his own government. The following day, 20 years ago next Wednesday, Dr Bakhtiar resigned. I realised by the look on my father's face that we were never going back to Iran.

Almost every member of Dr Bakhtiar's short-lived govern-

ment and the establishment that supported it were hunted into exile. Several have been assassinated. Some of those who fled have been attacked, or have lived their lives under permanent guard from police and private detectives.

My father did not set foot ever again in the land he loved, and the memories I had of Iran when I was 10 are the same ones I carry with me now: faded and yellowing like a series of snapshots in an album.

We moved to London when I was two, and we went to Iran on holiday every year before the revolution. I remember walking across central Tehran with my father to get a haircut at a barber's shop where they served us black tea and sweet biscuits. My father chatted with the barber for an hour about the Shah and why he had to go before democracy could come to Iran.

I remember the craggy, stubbly, intelligent face of



The Ayatollah Khomeini was greeted by two million people on his return to Iran from France 20 years ago today (above); for Mahmoud Sanai, pictured top left on the outskirts of Tehran with his daughters, it spelt the end of his dream to return to the land of his birth. Main photo: AP

Gholam-Hossein. He was my father's servant in our house, and had been for 20 years. He and his family lived in three rooms on the ground floor, and their living-room was piled high with Persian carpets smelling of mothballs and tea. I used to play football in the courtyard every day with Gholam-Hossein's three beautiful teenage daughters, Sedigheh, Tahereh and Assam. When Khomeini took over, my father comforted

us with the fact that people like Gholam-Hossein might be running the country.

After the revolution, I would climb up every evening to my father's study at the top of the house and draw pictures at his desk while he sat with his head in his hands, listening to the World Service. Often, the Ayatollah's voice would boom out, urging the people on to greater sacrifice. There would be news of the latest politicians who had been executed or exiled.

At my parents' dinner parties, the conversation, always in Farsi, revolved around the word *enghelab* - revolution. Among my parents it wasn't a dirty word, as it was in some Iranian expatriate households, but it was always said with a sense of wishfulness and incomprehension.

There's a Farsi expression, *Eh vaah*, which means roughly "Oh my God". I didn't hear the details of many of the conversations, but numerous times I heard my parents and their friends mutter the name of a family acquaintance, shake their heads and say, *Eh Vaah*, again and again. If I asked, they said it meant this person was in trouble in Iran - murdered or disappeared. Our house was taken over, our car taken away.

One spring day in 1981, I was on holiday with my father in Paris when he said we were going to Montparnasse to have lunch with Dr Bakhtiar, by then living in exile in constant fear for his life. My memories are of a quiet, kindly-looking man, picking at his steak *frites* in a café, looking as if there were nothing left in the world for him. As well he might, a man who

spent his life persecuted and continually jailed by the Shah, only to find himself labelled a traitor by the Ayatollah and chased from his country. I remember my father bemoaning him about education, his pet subject. Dr Bakhtiar left us with a sad smile, preoccupied, it seemed.

After six years of worrying, stress, depression and constant smoking, sitting in his study in north London and agonising over the latest news from Iran, my father had a stroke. He lay for months in the Royal Free hospital, unable to speak or write, before suffering

a cardiac arrest and dying in September 1985.

Life as an exile never suited him. Unlike some Iranians, he hadn't smuggled huge sums of money out of the country. Until the day he died, I think he was depressed by the fact that his children would never have the chance to go back to Iran. His idea was for us to be educated here, and then to go and live there "when democracy came". An Iranian nationalist, he could never understand why his son and daughters preferred listening to The Clash to reading Hafiz, one of the Persian lyrical poets.

I still haven't been back to Iran. Things have changed a lot since the early days of the revolution. I have cousins and friends who go back and forth from Tehran all the time. Some of them have lived in London or LA all their lives and tell me Tehran is now a much livelier place. The latest regime is relatively liberal, and they are keen for Western-educated Iranians to come home.

I would love to go home; to see the great mosques at Esfahan; the ruins at Persepolis; the mountain town of Hamadan where my father was born. In the Behesht-e-Zehr cemetery, in the poor part of south Tehran, lie the bodies of hundreds of thousands of young Iranian men killed in the war with Iraq, many of them used as "human shields" on Saddam Hussein's minefields. They all have names like mine, looked like me, and were born at around the same time. Part of me cannot stop thinking that my idea of Iran died with my father; that it is really a sort of fictional place from childhood, like Narnia.

The reality is somewhat harsher. If I were to go back, I would be drafted into the Iranian army to do military service. Like millions of the people of my country, the Iranian diaspora which is scattered across the world from Stockholm to LA, I shall remain an exile for quite a while longer.



Darius Sanai (far right) and sisters Maryam and Leyla on holiday in Iran in the summer of 1975

CLASSIFIED

Legal Notices

The Insolvency Act 1986
B & M MANAGEMENT LIMITED
(In Liquidation)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I, Peter James of Poppleton & Appleby, 32 High Street, Manchester, M4 1UD, was appointed Liquidator of the above named Company by the Members and Creditors on 18th January 1999.

18th January 1999
PETER JAMES, Liquidator

The Insolvency Act 1986
THE ELECTRIC FILM FACTORY LIMITED
Formerly ROCKY FILMS LIMITED

Nature of Business: Audio and Visual Media. Administration Order Made: 14 December 1998.
JMR Administrators, 8 Corder and M.R. Darrington, of Poppleton & Appleby, 32 High Street, Manchester, M4 1UD, dated 28 December 1998.

THE INSOLVENCY RULES 1986
BARNHARTS OF LONDON LIMITED T/A LASHES
IN LIQUIDATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Rule 4.118 of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that Stephen Franklin of PwC Chartered Accountants, 25 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, was appointed Liquidator of the above named Company on 26 January 1999 by Members and Creditors.
Dated 1 February 1999
STEPHEN FRANKLIN, Liquidator

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SCIENCE

Invasion of the killer bees?

Scientists fear that imported bees from New Zealand carry a virus which could kill the native insect. By Jeremy Cherfas

A buzz of anxious anticipation has descended on the rarefied world of British beekeeping. The Government is expected to rule within the next few weeks on whether to allow the import of several thousand worker bees from New Zealand. Some beekeepers believe the immigrants will revitalise British hives, but scientists are warning that they could introduce native honeybees to a deadly new disease.

The bees of New Zealand are noted for their docile nature – a definite plus for beekeepers – but almost all of them are infected with Kashmir bee virus (KBV). Although it causes few problems down under, experts in insect virology suspect that the virus could be lethal to British bees if it should ever gain a foothold here.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) now has to decide whether to give Geoffrey Munro, of Park Beekeeping Supplies, permission to import the bees into the UK.

Before 1992, there were two or three other bee viruses in Britain which seemed to have no effect on the hives that were infected with them. Then came varroa, a tiny mite that feeds on bees and bee larvae in their honeycomb cells. The mites probably arrived as a result of beekeepers trading queens illicitly. The first few were found in the South-west, but since then they have travelled inexorably across the country and can now be found everywhere in England and Wales.

Varroa clings to adult bees and hitchhikes rides from colony to colony, but in its normal host, the eastern (or Asian) hive bee, the mite is harmless – beekeepers find it, but there aren't many mites and the keepers certainly don't worry about them. However, when varroa jumps across to honeybees, it devastates hives.

To begin with, beekeepers thought it was the mite itself that damaged the developing bees. But the latest research by scientists at the Institute for Arable Crops Research in Rothamsted has shown that varroa is just a trigger for something far more sinister. Varroa alone has "no significant effect", says Dr Norman Carreck, of Rothamsted. It does not affect either the maturation of larvae into workers or their life span of those workers. But varroa can activate viruses that normally lie dormant in the bees and, once awakened, a virus can multiply, kill the entire hive and spread to other colonies.

There are still plenty of unknowns in the story. Not all bees carry viruses. Disease persists as an invisible infection in only a few individuals. "Something in the mite's saliva goes into the bee and interferes with its immune system, which allows the virus to multiply," Carreck explains. Active virus is then spread by varroa, often towards the

end of the summer when there are many worker bees but not many larvae, so each bee has many mites biting it. As a result, hives fail to survive till spring, which is when the bees are most valuable to pollinate crops. This is why New Zealand enters the story.

New Zealand's autumn, when the hives are at their biggest and can easily be split, is our spring, when beekeepers, especially those who have lost hives to varroa-triggered disease, need new queens to establish new colonies. Thus there is a powerful economic incentive to import bees from New Zealand – exactly what Geoffrey Munro wants to do. Mr Munro acknowledges that New Zealand bees have KBV. But he insists that "it can't even be called a problem. It has no symptoms, no loss of bees, no real effect".

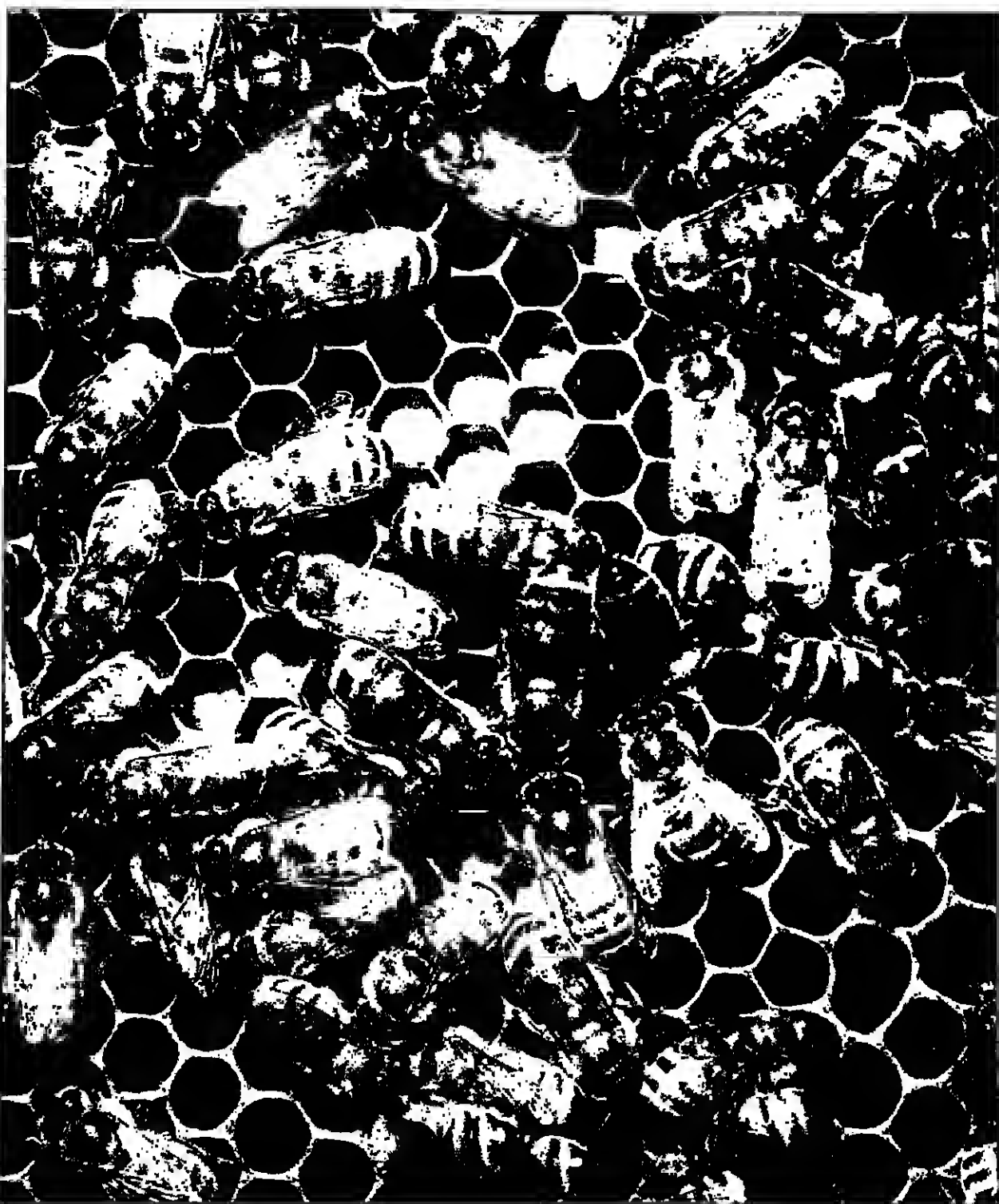
That is not the view of Dr Brenda Ball, senior scientist at Rothamsted. KBV "is the most virulent virus of bees known", she says. "Only about 100 particles of virus are required for infection and its rapid replication rate leads to death within three days."

Mr Munro points out that New Zealand maintains healthy colonies that show no signs of disease caused by KBV, but the essential difference is that New Zealand also lacks varroa.

"Before the arrival of varroa," Dr Ball says, two of the three bee viruses in Britain "had never been found to be responsible for bee mortality in nature". The danger is not that KBV will cause disease on its own, but that varroa will activate KBV and spread it through British hives. In the United States, where bees have varroa and KBV, scientists recently reported the first case of KBV killing a colony – which was also infested by varroa.

MAFF has asked interested parties to comment on Mr Munro's application to import packages of New Zealand bees. Dr Ball has told MAFF bluntly that "it would be undesirable to risk" the introduction of KBV. Mr Munro says KBV will "cause no practical or scientific problem at all." The ministry has also asked for a risk assessment from its National Bee Unit in York, despite having been told by a more extensive study it commissioned in 1989 that the importation of bees from New Zealand poses a real risk of also importing KBV.

Mr Munro claims that a UK ban on imports of bees from New Zealand would fall foul of the World Trade Organisation. But within the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) there is an agreement that allows a country to restrict trade to safeguard human, animal or plant health, although not to protect domestic agriculture from imports. Ironically, it is just such restrictions on trade that have enabled New Zealand to build up its healthy honeybee industry; no live bees have been allowed into New Zealand for the past 40 years.



Honey trap: New Zealand bees carry a virus which could kill off healthy British hives Planet Earth Pictures

The UK needs to import New Zealand bees to replace colonies that have died, but Dr Ball reckons that is not a good enough reason to run the risk of introducing a disease new to Britain. She points out that when it first arrived, varroa did kill many colonies, but as beekeepers learned to mitigate its effects and control the infection, losses declined. Today, it is manageable. A few beekeepers, however, seem to regard stocks as expendable. They would prefer to buy in replacements rather than

improve their husbandry, even though those imports threaten beekeepers who take care to look after their hives.

Adrian Waring, general secretary of the British Beekeepers Association, says that the vast bulk of British beekeepers want nothing to do with New Zealand queens. He has no great confidence in MAFF's ability to protect British bees, but whether MAFF or beekeepers are more to blame is anybody's guess. When varroa turned up in April 1992, the ministry cre-

ated a Statutory Infected Area, supposed to restrict the movement of infected bees. Though they told the beekeepers, they couldn't tell the bees, and each year the area has had to be enlarged. By 1997, it covered the whole of England and Wales.

MAFF now has a chance to prevent the entry of KBV, but Waring is not optimistic. "Ten thousand of my members versus a single request from an individual," he says. "You'd have thought by now that we would have learnt a bit of a lesson."

UPDATE

THE STARDUST mission to bring back samples of cometary dust to Earth is due to blast off tomorrow from the Kennedy Spaceflight Center in Florida. Scientists hope the material collected from Comet Wild-2's tail will tell them more about the elements that existed at the birth of the Solar System nearly five billion years ago. Other scientists, notably Chandra Wickramasinghe of Cardiff University, hope the mission might also bring back evidence of extraterrestrial life. He, along with Sir Fred Hoyle, one of the greatest British cosmologists, proposed nearly 20 years ago that microbes from outer space may have "seeded" the Earth about 4 billion years ago to provide the spark for evolution. They were ridiculed then, but now scientists are treating their ideas more seriously, having observed organic molecules in cometary material.

Meanwhile, Professor Wickramasinghe is collaborating with scientists from the Indian Space Research Organisation to fly a series of balloons into the stratosphere later this year to suck up samples of air that could contain evidence of cometary microbes.

A STUDY of last year's World Cup has identified the part of the pitch where football matches are won and lost. Scientists have found that it is the "D" zone on the edge of the penalty area. "It's the critical area of the pitch for exploitation of any creative action, and the springboard for true penetration of the defensive line," Tom Reilly of the Research Institute for Sport and Exercise Sciences at Liverpool University, told *New Scientist*. The study analysed 24 matches and found that successful teams made much greater use of the zone just outside their opponent's penalty area. Successful teams made on average 25 passes from the zone, compared with just 15 passes by losing sides.

A THINNING ozone layer could have greater impact on agriculture than anticipated from conventional views on the mutation rates of plants caused by ultraviolet radiation. As plants rely on sunshine they are exposed to high levels of UV light but they have an internal sunscreen to limit the damage it might cause to DNA. Virginia Walbot of Stanford University in California reports in *Nature* that exposure of maize plants to UV light not only damages DNA but activates dormant parts of the genetic material which increase the rate of mutation. She warns that a thinning ozone layer, and corresponding increase in UV could unleash a sustained increase in mutation rate of important crops.

STEVE CONNOR

STARS AND PLANETS: FEBRUARY

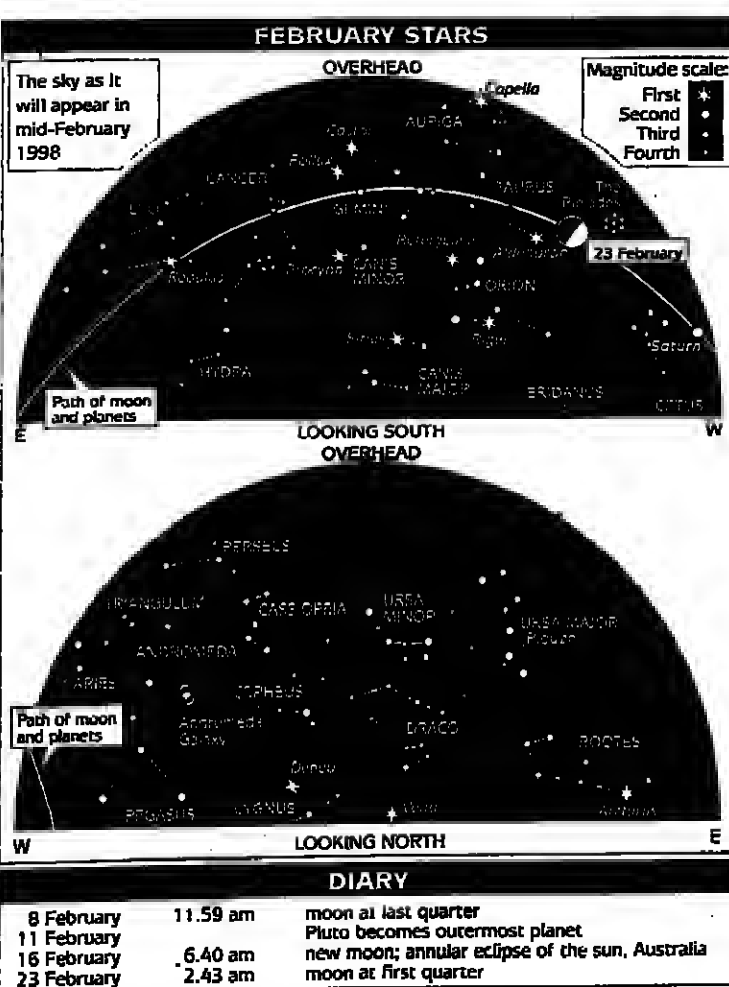
FOR THE last 20 years, we have encouraged our readers to pose their friends an astronomical trick question: "What's the outermost planet of the Solar System?" The answer has been Neptune. But don't try that one any more. From next Thursday (11 February), the answer will in fact be the obvious one – Pluto.

Pluto takes 248 years to go once around the Sun, and for 228 years of that time it certainly lies farther away than Neptune. But Pluto's oval orbit brings it closer to the Sun than Neptune for 20 years in every revolution – and that's been the case since 1979.

This month, Pluto moves back beyond Neptune, to regain its title as most distant planet. There's no danger of a collision, though, because Neptune lies in a different part of its orbit. Indeed, because Neptune goes around its orbit exactly three times for every two orbits of Pluto, the two planets are a safe distance apart every time that Pluto crosses Neptune's path. That's just as well, because Pluto is so small that even a near miss would be disastrous, with giant Neptune's gravity flinging Pluto out of the Solar System altogether.

Pluto is, so far, the only planet that hasn't been scrutinised by a space probe. NASA has plans for a Pluto Express mission, designed to study Pluto and its big moon Charon at close quarters. It's a bit of a race against time, though. As Pluto moves away from the Sun, it is cooling down. Its thin atmosphere is starting to freeze on to its frosty surface. And if Pluto has "ice volcanoes" – similar to those that the Voyager 2 spacecraft discovered on Neptune's big moon Triton – these will turn off as the Sun's heat diminishes.

According to Alan Stern, of the Southwestern Research Institute in



Boulder, Colorado, the Pluto Express mission will carry on to explore some of the dozens of smaller "ice dwarf" worlds that astronomers have recently discovered beyond Pluto.

The discovery has opened a debate on whether Pluto is really a "planet" at all. It is far smaller than any other planet, and some astronomers say it should be demoted to being merely the largest of the ice dwarfs.

permanently lose its title as most distant planet.

WHAT'S UP: Venus is becoming more and more prominent in the west after sunset, as a brilliant "Evening Star", though it doesn't appear on the chart because it sets before 22.00. To its upper left is the second-brightest planet, Jupiter, which is now slipping down into the sunset glow.

There will be a spectacular sight on the evening of 23 February, as these two planets graze past one another. They will be little more than a one-tenth of a degree apart – about a quarter of the Moon's width. With binoculars or a small telescope, you'll see both planets in the same field of view, Jupiter with its family of four prominent moons.

At the end of the month, Jupiter lies near Mercury, to the lower right of Venus in the evening twilight glow. Throughout February, Saturn lies to the left of Jupiter, with Mars rising in the east around midnight.

The lack of a full moon on the sky chart is no mistake. January had two full moons, the second of which was on 31 January, and the next is due on 2 March.

New moon falls on 16 February: as seen from a narrow band across Australia, it appears right in front of the Sun. The resulting eclipse, however, is not total. Because we are currently near the Earth's closest point to the Sun, the Sun appears larger than the Moon, and the ring of the sun's surface will be visible all around the Moon's silhouette. This is an annular eclipse, named after the Latin "annulus" for "ring".

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Map No. 5

Map No. 5	51st St	50th St	49th St	48th St	47th St	46th St	45th St	44th St	43rd St	42nd St	41st St
A. The Waldorf Astoria Hotel											
B. The Chrysler Building											

talk radio
1053/1089 am

THE INDEPENDENT

Previous schemes may have failed, but this time nothing is going to stop Bath re-emerging as a spa town. By Nonie Niesewand

Full steam ahead

Bath Council is making good progress with its plans to convert the fourth-biggest tourist attraction in Britain back into a spa town, but not one that Jane Austen would have recognised.

Two years ago, Bath Council, eager to rejuvenate the parched spa and stop the town from turning into a museum set-piece, applied to the Millennium Commission for lottery money to restore and convert four listed buildings, including John D Woods's hot baths, built in 1775, and the Grade I listed Cross Baths, and construct a contemporary spa.

"In 20 years there have been five schemes to revive Bath as a spa town. All failed, because they were

although the council would ideally like to close the street to cars. Mr Simons does not see this as controversial. "When you look at the things [Phaophanit] has done with light in particular, and applied to water and transparency, you discover interesting conceptual ideas that will link the main thoroughfare of Bath from the Roman baths towards the new spa project."

Phaophanit's last public-art installation, a 14m-long wall of crimson glass built at the Thames Barrier, was shattered by vandals and had to be dismantled just a month after completion.

"I was pained by that experience," Vong says, choosing his words carefully. "The engineers, the builders, all worked so hard; it was an intense experience. But it taught me that artists cannot solve racial or economic problems in a deprived region. Their artistic input should be accompanied by other, much larger programmes."

Bath will not be Phaophanit's first water sculpture. In 1986 he filled a gallery in Aix-en-Provence (which is, coincidentally, twinned with Bath) with hundreds of little plastic freezer-bags of water, all at different depths, to catch the natural light from the windows and the artificial light in the dimmed core. The sparkling, iridescent installation, coloured like a rainbow in prisms of light, was highly acclaimed.

"European cities all have great fountains. This is a very good opportunity," says Mr Simons. For Nick Grimshaw, Bath represents, in one stone-clad mellowed yellow classical package, the challenge of his career.

Grimshaw likes to give his monumental buildings transparent membranes. Look at the elegant, sinuous Waterloo Terminal snaking through south London like a train. Or the *Financial Times* building in which the printing-presses can be seen. When he designed the British pavilion at the 1992 Expo in Seville, the facade was a wall of water by the sculptor William Pye, an idea he wanted to transplant to Bath to heat the building with thermal springs. So the proposed entrance to his hydro will be glass set behind stone columns, and his Turkish steam baths, four glass cubicles shrouded in mist, are pierced with light through holes in a stone cladding, in the manner of an Arabic latticed screen.

Rather boldly, and some say over-confidently, Bath Council have demolished the Beau Street baths,



Demolition work at Beau Street baths where Bath Council wants to build Nicholas Grimshaw's glass and steel cube-within-a-cube to create a contemporary spa, below left. Below right, an artist's impression of Vong Phaophanit's water installation for Bath Street, where jets of water and steam will transform the streetscape

designed by AJ Taylor in 1925-27, to clear the site for the building. Normally you don't pull down anything until permission is granted for what is to replace it, but the deadline for Millennium Commission projects to open is 31 December 2001, and the Council had to get archaeological work under way on site. So they pulled down a respectful little stone

building, nothing much architecturally and not listed, but none the less on a World Heritage Site, for which no application for planning permission had been made. "If the worst happens we can always put it together again, this time without an asbestos roof," says Peter Carey from Donald Insall, the conservation architects with Grimshaws.

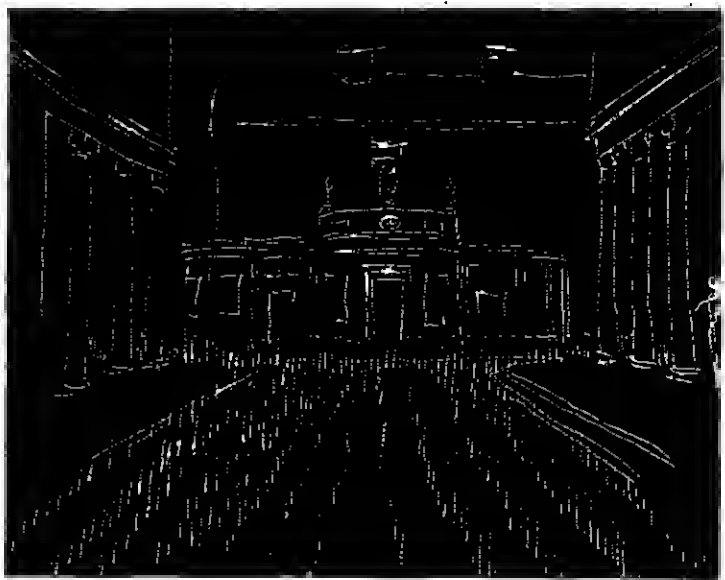
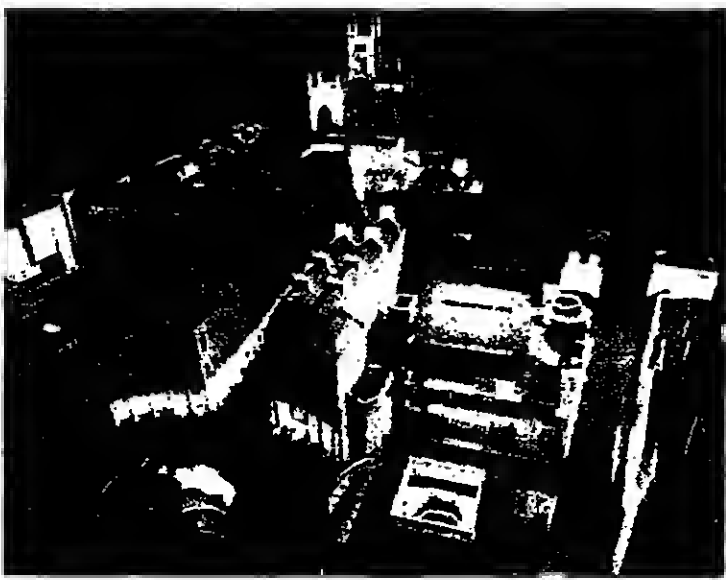
Grimshaw had to alter the scheme after consultation with English Heritage, which raised questions of scale and proportion, and with the Royal Fine Arts Commission, which reminded the architects of Bath's "Roman resonance". But the fundamental concept of the glass cube within a stone-clad cube remains.

Bath Spa is a microcosm of the flawed practice of matched funding for Millennium projects - lottery funding put into place by the Millennium Commission. First the project was estimated to cost £13m but it escalated to £16.8m. So they were given lottery funding of £6.8m and £2m from the Dutch operators of the spa, and the Council con-

tributed £3m, including the cost of the land, and raised £600,000 from selling off five-year membership of the spa, and other stunts. But they still need another £1m. Fast.

The Dutch operator, not unnaturally, has taken a keen interest in how his commercial project will work. So has the client, Bath Council. Nick Grimshaw has downsized floor-to-ceiling heights, even as he managed to withstand the request for Seventies-style saunas to be installed. He has lowered the roof line and dug down below ground in two major redesigns. Finding himself hemmed in by English Heritage's comments, the Dutch investor's commercial needs, the blue-plaque brigade and various archaeologists, Grimshaw has responded fluently and with fluidity in retaining the original concept. It still looks like the handsome building that he first presented.

As the archaeologists on the demolition site went below Roman levels, they found proof that the site had been inhabited since 5000BC. They also found early medieval layers, and some bath structures of the 18th century. And at the back of the 19th-century John Woods Hot Bath, they even found a hot-water tank built on a Roman hypocaust system.



I'll wear my art on my sleeve

You may never be rich enough to buy a masterpiece, but aesthetically inspired accessories offer affordable artistic souvenirs. By Rosemary Hill



HEAVEN KNOWS what Madame Mottessier would say: Ingres' heavy-lidded beauty, who looks out so impressively from the cover of the National Gallery catalogue, might raise an eyebrow if she knew that she was also available in the exhibition shop as a cut-out paper doll, to be "undressed down to the underwear".

The marketing of masterpieces gets ever more far-fetched. But for those in search of a more subtle tribute to the style of the Second Empire, Janet Fitch's jewellery shops are offering a range of modern designs "in the spirit of" Ingres.



"Madame Mottessier" scandalous divorcee who once sat for Ingres in Rome. None of the Fitch pieces actually looks much like the jewels in the paintings. They are in the same spirit chiefly in being striking statements of the wearer's personality. Ingres took great care with his sitters' dress and accessories. He used them eloquently to express the unmentionable-but-obvious themes of so many of the portraits: money and sex. "Bring... your bracelets and the long pearl necklace," he told Marie-Clothilde-Ines Mottessier as he

was planning her picture. In the end he painted her twice, and the preparatory drawings show him trying out the effects of various pieces, moving them from one portrait to the other.

Most of what he painted was not only valuable, but also fashionable. He rejected one of Mme Mottessier's brooches on the grounds that it was out of date. His sitters were not, for the most part, wearing their family jewels, simply because they were not in a position to. Instead, the smart set of the Second Empire were among the earliest patrons of costume jewellery in the modern sense, pieces valued for their design as much as - or more than - the intrinsic cost of the materials.

There was the age of stylistic revivals. Among the traditional cabochon-cut stones and ropes of pearls, items designed in the Renaissance and Byzantine styles were starting to appear. The Princess Brogle, for example, wore an "early Christian" pendant made by the most innovative contemporary jeweller, Fortunato Castellani. Its deliberate irregularity bespeaks a somewhat daring taste for the primitive.

Perhaps not many of Janet Fitch's customers can hope to achieve the "seductive disorder of shimmering fabrics and jewels of a thousand colours" that Ingres' contemporaries admired in his work. But the portraits offer an ideal, made real in paint. The souvenirs promise a little bit of that to take away.

It is the paradox of merchandising that while people come to see art because it is rare and valuable, they want to go home with something easy and affordable. Hence the terrible bathos of the average British exhibition shop. The Victoria and Albert museum - which as the National Museum of design should know better - shows a relentless determination to plaster everyone from William Morris to Aubrey Beardsley on to a coffee mug.

By comparison, the National Gallery has served Ingres and the public well. There is a silk scarf based on Mme Leblanc's Indian shawl and another like the Lyons silk of Mme Mottessier's dress. But then there are the cut-out dolls - it is hard to believe that anyone who appreciates Ingres won't wince at these poorly drawn figures. Janet Fitch's jewellery may not have much to

do with the pictures directly, but it offers the best kind of souvenir, an original in its own way.

Janet Fitch: 0171-287 3789. The National Gallery Shop: 0171-747 2870



Left and above: rings and bracelets designed for Janet Fitch's shops

No cachet in a Gachet

Van Gogh's artistic output in the last few months of his life was huge. Impossibly so, say some scholars. Are some of them fakes painted by his doctor? An exhibition in Paris has re-opened the controversy. By John Lichfield

In the last 70 days of his life, Vincent Van Gogh produced 70 paintings. There are several theories about this final star-burst of creativity, which generated many of the canvases for which he is best remembered (*The Church at Auvers*; *The Cornfield*).

Was it an explosion of nervous and artistic energy after his release from hospital, following the auto-amputation of his ear? Was it a frantic and tragic attempt to paint as much as he could before he lost the struggle with depression, which led to his botched suicide and slow death in July 1890?

In the past two years, several art journalists and scholars have revived another explanation for Van Gogh's extraordinary production during the final 10 weeks of his life in Auvers-sur-Oise, north-west of Paris: he didn't paint them all. Several of the Auvers paintings, they suggest, are fakes, painted, most probably by Dr Paul Gachet, his doctor, sometime friend and the subject of two of the Auvers canvases.

The claims and counter-claims about the authenticity of at least four of the works (including one of the Gachet portraits) have already led to two court cases in France and a series of mutually insulting articles by some of the best-known names in Parisian art criticism.

An exhibition which opened at the Grand Palais in the capital this week claims to prove, scientifically, that all of the Auvers works are genuine and seeks to lay the controversy to rest. But there is small hope of that. The show has simply ignited another series of blasts and counter-blasts.

Supporters of the "Gachet fake" theory accuse the French museums service of mounting a self-serving exhibition, intended to whitewash (as it were) the doubts surrounding several Van Gogh canvases owned by the French state (as well as a couple of Cézannes). The experts in the museums service dismiss the critics as amateurs, who refuse to allow scientific proof to disturb their pet theories, which they have erected from false intuitions and circumstantial evidence.

In other words, the show has become Exhibit A in a legal and political argument, as well as an exhibition. No matter. It is a fascinating show, as well as a fascinating argument and a fascinating story.

Dr Gachet was a railway doctor, a self-declared specialist in nervous problems, but also an amateur artist, who befriended several of the painters of the day (Cézanne, Pissarro, Monet, Renoir). It was Pissarro who recommended to Van Gogh's brother, Theo, that the troubled Vincent should be sent to live near Dr Gachet in Auvers after he



Fake accomplice? The undisputed 'Portrait of Dr Gachet' by Van Gogh



...and the second unsigned and unauthenticated version

emerged from hospital in May 1890. The painter and the art-struck doctor got on well at first but Van Gogh began to have his doubts, writing to his brother that Gachet was "sicker than me. When the blind lead the blind, don't they both fall in the ditch?". This letter, and Gachet's unusual behaviour after Van Gogh shot himself - he failed to remove the bullet and, in effect, left him to die - have led some historians to blame the eccentric doctor for the artist's death.

Gachet assembled a large collection of works by his painter friends, including seven Van Goghs, three Cézannes, a Monet, a Renoir and several Pissarros. They were eventually donated to the French state by his son between 1949 and 1964. Almost all now belong to the Musée d'Orsay and almost all are in the Grand Palais exhibition. Alongside them hang other works by Van Gogh and Cézanne and

many original paintings and self-declared copies carried out by both Dr Gachet and his son, under the pseudonyms Paul and Louis Van Ryssel. But which are the Van Ryssels and which are the Van Goghs? The show has been put together by the chief curator at the Musée d'Orsay, Anne Distel, and Louis Van Tilborgh of the Van Gogh Foundation in Amsterdam. By hanging the Van Goghs and the Van Ryssels (Gachets) side by side, the curators hope to prove the first part of their argument. The disputed pictures - especially the "second" portrait of Dr Gachet - may be below the quality of the artist's best work but are infinitely superior to anything attempted by the doctor or his son.

Furthermore, the curators say, both the Van Goghs and the known Gachet paintings have been subjected to 12 months of the most minute and rigorous chemical and X-ray analysis. These investiga-

tions reveal that the amateur, and amateurish, Gachets always drew the outlines of their subjects and filled in the colours later, like a child painting by numbers. The disputed Van Goghs and Cézannes were not painted in this way. They were painted directly on to the canvas.

"The X-rays showed no signs of touching up. It showed a strong firm line in Van Gogh's manner and a background filled in with large brushstrokes, crossing over one another as in most of his paintings," reported Danièle Gilraudy, head of the contemporary arts laboratory at the French museums directorate.

Convincing proof? Not in the least, say the doubters. "The star canvas of the exhibition (the portrait of Dr Gachet) is a cuckoo's egg," said Benoit Landais, the French art critic and Van Gogh specialist. He points to the letters sent by Van Gogh to his brother in June and July 1890, which gave detailed accounts

of all his work in Auvers but made no mention of a second portrait of the doctor. M Landais says that the painting is manifestly a fake, probably copied from a photograph of the original.

Another French critic, Jean-Marie Tasset, says the exhibition shoots itself in the foot. By hanging two unimpeachable Van Goghs - *The Church at Auvers* and a self-portrait - close to the disputed painting, they have exposed the "second" Gachet portrait as "a lifeless, clumsy, soulless composition". On the contrary, says Mr Van Tilborgh of the Amsterdam Van Gogh Foundation, the portrait is a "moving work", well beyond the capacity of either of the Gachets...

And so the argument goes on. Along the way, the research by the French museums' laboratories has proved something which has long been suspected. Van Gogh

used cheap materials in his Auvers period and some of the colours in his later canvases have faded or changed, especially those based on red. In that sense, all these later Van Goghs are "fakes", in the sense that they are not what the painter intended.

The foxgloves grasped in Dr Gachet's hand in the "first", undisputed portrait have altered colour from mauve to blue. Curiously, exactly the same change has occurred in the second, disputed painting. If Dr Gachet faked this painting, did he use the same cheap paints as Van Gogh? This seems unlikely because in all the accepted Gachets, he is known to have used higher-quality materials. Is the "cuckoo's egg" a discoloured Van Gogh after all?

A *Friend of Cézanne and Van Gogh, Doctor Gachet 1828-1909*, at the Grand Palais until 26 April

Deleted poets society

READING
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AT A café-bar in a reconditioned church, a motley crew met to protest an act of vandalism across the road, where stands a publishing house unconvincingly disguised as an Oxford college. The principal conspirators gathered behind a barricade of Czech beer bottles in the gloom of the apse, and took turns to say their piece to a spotlight microphone where the altar used to be.

The rabble-rousers? Two dozen distinguished poets. The enemy? The Oxford University Press. And the cause? A management decision, taken in November last year, to junk the OUP's entire modern poetry list. The publisher of the world's most weighty dictionary says that it can no longer bear the annual cost of bringing out some eight or nine slim volumes of verse.

The outcast poets, and their many friends, begged to disagree. Fleur Adcock set the tone with a specially written piece of doggerel. "This is your publisher speaking". It began: "We're coming in with the bulldozers..." A petition was passed around as Jon Stallworthy - founder-editor of the Oxford Poets list - sermonised about the great betrayal. The assembly signed an oath condemning "an act of desecration against the humanity and literary traditions of Oxford University".

They applauded a procession of laureates-in-waiting - the piratical Charles Tomlinson, the Bismarckian James Fenton, the ever-startled Craig Raine, and even Tom Paulin, the heart-throb of late-night television. "Reds, addicts, all delinquents!" So went Basil Bunting's poem about poets, read by Sean O'Brien. More verse followed, some of it very fine. David Harsent offered a fragment called "Marriage" from his latest work, and also read a translation of the Bosnian poet Goran Simic, who e-mailed his solidarity from Toronto. But this was, first and foremost, a domestic evening, and its politics were narrowly focused.

Fittingly, the greatest round of applause went to an unpublished poet called Alan Howarth. He is now Minister for the Arts, but that didn't stop him from taking sides. He put the boot firmly into OUP's groin: "The custodians of the English language are abandoning those that help to shape it." The heavy hitters are coming out for the poets. Will OUP back down? WILLIAM GREEN

The importance of being truly evil

FACED WITH a double bill of ghostly chillers called *Darkness Falls*, I'm the sort of person who anticipates an evening that would be better entitled "Boredom Descends". I'm haunted enough already, thank you very much. So Jonathan Holloway's pliant pairing of two creepy one-acters at the Palace Theatre, Watford, came as a very pleasant surprise. Proceedings kick off with WW Jacobs' classic 1902 short story, *The Monkey's Paw*, updated to the 1940s among those bereaved by the Second World War. After the interval is *The Dark*, an original play by Holloway with a contemporary setting, though it shares a remote Northumbrian locale with the Jacobs, and a preoccupation with the rash deals we make with the supernatural.

THEATRE
DARKNESS FALLS
PALACE THEATRE
WATFORD

At the start of the former, you find yourself irresistibly reminded of the spoof murder mystery in Stoppard's *The Real Inspector Hound*. The howling wind, the heavy emphasis on the lonely inaccessibility of this working-class cottage, the deathless dialogue ("He fought his way across Burma, I think he can manage to get to us," declares Father of their tardy ex-soldier guest), and the seemingly brainless wife bustling about her domestic chores - all these seem to have roughly the same relation to real terror as "Acorn Antiques" does to "The Spoils of Poynton".

But it's a calculated gamble on the part of director Giles Croft that pays off handsomely, making the subsequent stealthy escalation into authentic horror all the more powerful. From plucky cipher, Suzy Aitchison's wife, suddenly deepens into a desperately distraught mother and the play, with its eponymous charm twisting like a snake in the hands of those who seek to profit by it, becomes a sinister study in the treacherous ambiguity of our deepest wishes. Those final blows on the door resonate in the nerves for a long time afterwards.

A dramatisation of *The Monkey's Paw* is being announced on the radio at the start of *The Dark*, a droll touch that has the effect of underlining the inferiority of the latter as ghostly



Suzy Aitchison and Philip Bretherton in 'Darkness Falls'

drama. Part of the trouble is that, whereas the shockings of the Jacobs is properly dramatised and mounts till the final, last-second twist, *The Dark* theorises about its themes and renders them diffuse. It is set on

declares: "Hi, I'm Mephistopheles, fly me!", it is hard to see how either play or performance could signal the function of this character louder or earlier.

The cat-and-mouse conversation at this sticky do crackles with baleful inventiveness - air-guitar ideas like that of a Faust who is prepared to commit suicide rather than allow the devil to get his cloven mitts on a girlfriend. And if these fancies aren't satisfyingly subsumed into a story with drive, they certainly thicken on the atmosphere of ominous diabolic depravity. A compelling evening that is also a puzzle. Can this be the same Jonathan Holloway who once staged a version of *Macbeth* that cut out all mention of the witches?

PAUL TAYLOR

To 20 Feb, 01923 225671

Empty posturing, not provocative drama

IF THEY could mass-produce their work, Forced Entertainment could probably sell their shows abroad as instruments of torture. This Sheffield-based company has become expert in subjecting audiences to carefully engineered acts of tedium, which it passes off as provocative experiments. "All year we've been working on the notion of an absent show," they explain in the programme to *Dirty Work*. "A performance that never really takes place." In the process, they have succeeded in reinventing the wheel and then removing its spokes.

Dirty Work takes the con-

ventional form of a story-telling session, but there is no narrative thread. A fantastical play is described, consisting of a long list of incongruous scenes: disasters, suicides, wars, circus stunts, romances - the writer, Tim Etchells, has put a lyrical girdle round the earth. Seated on a makeshift proscenium stage, a man (Robin Arthur) and a woman (Cathy Naden), talk at us in an earnest monotone while behind them another woman (Claire Marshall) operates the sound, a loop of melancholy piano music. Some of the lines are intriguing, some mildly amusing, but the portentous

THEATRE
DIRTY WORK
ICA
PLAYBOY
YOUNG VIC STUDIO

THIRTEENTH NIGHT
SOUTHWARK PLAYHOUSE
LONDON

tone, repetitive structure and visual austerity make every detail blur into the same grinding whole. That, presumably, is partly the point (all the world's reducible to a soundtrack), but it's as banal as it is insupportable.

Desperate Optimists' *Playboy*, a two-hander boasting the added musings of video-taped members of the public, bears certain similarities to *Dirty Work* in its impassive refusal to go easy on the audience. A skitish, gungling reflection on the controversial impact of J.M. Synge's *The Playboy of the Western World*, at one point it, too, describes a performance (a silent one: the Abbey Theatre's attempt to prevent the stage being mobbed). Here, though, the decision to present everything at one remove is relatively unforced, conveying the detachment of the original, and

obliquely suggesting our ambivalence towards violence. For those seeking more cogent provocation, there's *Thirteenth Night*, which, as its author Howard Brenton put it, "plays ducks and drakes with the plot of *Macbeth*". Premiered by the RSC in 1981, it was delivered as the dramatisation of "an internal row" within the Labour Party. Knocked unconscious during a scuffle with Fascists, the ruthless idealist Jack Beatty's dream of a truly Marxist government of Great Britain soon turns tyrannical. Sarah Woolley's well-executed revival re-

minds you how witty Brenton can be. Beatty's plight crystallises a current anguish: disillusionment with compromised socialism and cynicism about there ever being a "new social justice". It's a dirty business, party politics, but somebody's got to write about it: thank goodness Brenton did. DOMINIC CAVENTISH

Dirty Work ICA, London SW1 (0171-330 3647) to Sat; *Playboy* Young Vic Studio, London SE1 (0171-928 6363) to Sat; *Thirteenth Night* Southwark Playhouse, London SE1 (0171-620 3494)

NEW YORK TAKE OUT SKATES OFFER

TGIF - and while we're on the subject, thank God it's now officially OK to start the weekend lying on the sofa instead of lining up outside a club. So you turn on, you tune in, you snuggle up and get stuck in to the Chardonnay and ... you're hungry.

Enter NYTO - New York Take Out, the American take out experience from Crosse & Blackwell: honest, no-nonsense, delicious New York-style noodle takeaways in their own (we've seen-it-in-the-movies) cartons. And the real treat is, you don't have to venture any further than your freezer - frozen food just got funky! Microwave for 10 minutes and - ding! - Come Out Number 73. Your Time Is Up. Forget the washing-up - you can eat your chosen New York Take Out - Chicken Chow Mein, Beef and Black Bean, Hot and Sour Chicken or Sweet and Sour Pork Noodles - straight from the box.

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MUSIC

The righteous sister

Lauryn Hill is stealing hip hop back from the menace of gangsta. How? By steeping herself in the history of black female divas. It's not just about rap; it's a battle for the soul. By **Barney Hoskyns**

Lauryn Hill has a big mouth, and it sits in the middle of her tiny face as though God, in a moment of more-than-divine inspiration, had stuck the fabulous lips of Millie Jackson on the petite features of a young Diana Ross.

Which is apposite, really, because when Hill opens the mouth to rap or sing, the tough alto voice that issues forth is a lot closer to the husky come-on of Jackson - or the imploring warmth of Gladys Knight - than it is to the sugary purr of the former Supreme. In addition, there's a strident feistiness to Hill's tone that suggests she may just be the Angela Davis of hip hop - a sweet black angel in a Chevy Suburban.

A lot of words have poured out of Hill's mouth in the past six months, both in song and on the printed page. The 23-year-old mother of two from South Orange, New Jersey, has a lot to say, and ain't afraid to say it. "Every man want to act like he's exempt/ When him need to get down on his knees and repent," she admonishes on the startling "Lost Ones", first song proper on *The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill*. "Music is supposed to inspire/ How come we ain't getting no higher?" she demands to know on "Superstar". Even on the delectable "Doo Wop (That Thing)", Hill finger-wags the warning "that was the sin that did Jezebel in/ Who you gon' tell when the repercussions spin?" Easy, sister!

Amid the mass prostration that's greeted Hill's runaway megahit of an album - *The Miseducation* sold more copies in America in its first week than any previous album by a female artist, and is up for no less than eight Grammy awards - some dissenters have accused the girl of being preachy. Hill would probably say there was a need for preachiness in late-Nineties America: not the preachiness of the Baptist matrons who've been trying to gag hip hop for 10 years, but the rhetoric of artists who've had enough of the callous cynicism and dehumanising materialism of black pop-culture in the post-soul era. Hill, in a nutshell, is trying to lead hip hop and R&B back to the soul music she devoured after stumbling as a little girl on a dusty stash of 45s in her mother's basement.

"Black music right now is like this whole Star Wars battle," fustelove of Philly hip hop band The Roots told *Rolling Stone*. "There are very few people on the side of art who are going up against the Death Star. D'Angelo is Luke Skywalker. Prince, Stevie, James, Marvin and George are our Yoda and Obi-Wan Kenobi. And, most definitely, Lauryn is Princess Leia."

Nor is it just about "soul" music. On *The Miseducation*, Hill rustles up soul, gospel, jazz - above all, the righteous riddims of roots reggae. If there's an unseen presence behind the album, it's that of Robert Nesta Marley, whose hallowed Tuff Gong studio was the music's seedbed and whose son Rohan is the father of Hill's babies. From the rippling snare rolls and I-Threes choruses of "When It Hurts So Bad" to the "Concrete Jungle" homage that is "Forgive Them Father", *The Miseducation* is rooted in Marley's militant spirituality.

Marley, of course, was just as central to *The*



Doing it for herself: whether or not the rest of The Fugees liked it

LFT

Score, the brilliant and hugely successful 1996 album by The Fugees, the hip hop trio in which Hill first made her musical mark. Aside from its heavenly version of "No Woman, No Cry", *The Score* was strewn with reggae references and shot through with a loose Caribbean feel that sharply distinguished it from its hardcore-by-numbers predecessor, *Blunted By Reality*. *The Score*, too, was where the world heard Hill soaring her way through Roberta Flack's "Killing Me Softly With His Song", a rap-soul hybrid that lit up America and blew the cobwebs from a stagnant, gangsta-dominated scene.

Hill has hinted that her fellow Fugees were unhappy about her recording solo - despite having released solo albums of their own. (On "Lost Ones", a bracingly vengeful song widely presumed to be about Fugees mainman, Wyclef Jean, Hill sneers that "my emancipation don't fit your equation".) If true, it says a lot about the barriers that solo female hip hop artists are up against - and that Hill, with *The Miseducation*,

has knocked so emphatically to the ground.

Hill's role in The Fugees was radical enough: in hip hop's rigidly male milieu, no woman had ever shared equal billing with men in a group. The Peter, Paul and Mary of the Keepin' It Real school, The Fugees pushed Hill's femaleness to the foreground, not just in terms of her stunning looks but in terms of a sensibility which had long struggled to be heard in hip hop. Although fairer-skinned MCs such as MC Lyte and Yo Yo had fought for their meagre slice of the turf ever since 14-year-old Roxanne Shante let loose with 1985's "Roxanne's Revenge", hip hop's female successes - Salt-N-Pepa, Queen Latifah - were, by 1996, laughably outnumbered by a million - and one interchangeable male acts. No wonder most young black females plumped for R&B.

What makes *The Miseducation* such a seminal event is that it transcends the whole issue of whether women can cut it with male rappers: Hill has picked up where The Score left off and made an album whose aim is simply to shake

black America awake. In a climate dominated by sulky vixens (Monica, Brandy) and vicious ballbusters (Lil' Kim, Foxy Brown), Hill rises up like Delacroix's *Liberty*, a tiny-princess-turned-earth-mama who wants to lead her brothers and sisters into the next millennium. "There's a battle for the souls of black folk, and just folks in general," she told *Rolling Stone* last month. "The music has a lot to do with that."

At the risk of hubris, Hill is presenting herself as a kind of alternative diva - what the writer Sheri Parks has termed a "lion mother of the American soul". Moreover, she is fully aware of the women who went before her. She knows about empress Bessie Smith and matriarch Ma Rainey. She's heard the gospel mothers, the Mahalia Jacksons and Sallie Martins - the piercing sorrow of "I Used To Love Him" comes direct and unfiltered from the church. A sometime Columbia University major who calls her album "my thesis/ Well-written topic/ Broken down into pieces", Hill can tell you about Nina Simone singing "Mississippi Goddam", and about Aretha singing "Young, Gifted, and Black". She's watched Janet Jackson take "Control" and Erykah Badu exult in *Billie Holiday*.

But Hill has also seen Latifah, the "Queen of Royal Badness", throw hip hop on the back burner and take up residence on the TV sitcom *Living Single*. She's seen MC Lyte take five years to score a gold record; seen Yo Yo, for all her dishing of Ice Cube on "It's A Man's World", fade from the scene. She's seen Me'Shell Ndegeocello ignored by black radio because her music eludes its straitjacket categories.

If *The Miseducation* is about anything, it's the need for female soul power in an ever-more-desensitised male music-culture. As Hill told *Spin* last year: "I was thinking that hip hop and R&B, as we now know them, aren't as personal and intimate as the music I want to make - a lot of it is very braggadocious and cool." The joy of *The Miseducation* lies both in its musicality and in its willingness to explore subjects ignored by the gunfire junkies of male hip hop. ("Every Ghetto, Every City", with its vivid sketches of Hill's New Jersey childhood, is a hip hop "I Wish".) Hill says she wanted to "write songs that lyrically move me and have the integrity of reggae and the knock of hip hop and the instrumentation of classic soul", and to give those songs "a sound that's raw". She's succeeded.

In the heightened, menacing atmosphere in which hip hop music is made these days, Hill has taken a new road. She's become the "Every Woman" that Chaka Khan - another vocal influence, one suspects - sang about in 1978. The crucial missing link between Lil' Kim and Lil' Kim Fair, she's made a manifesto of an album that's already made millions of women - black, white, red, yellow - sit up and pay attention. It could just turn out to be the black *Jagged Little Pill*.

"Rock Hard like granite or steel," Hill raps on "Final Hour". "People feel Lauryn Hill from New-Ark to Israel And this is real..." Ain't nothing but the truth, though she do say so herself.

Lauryn Hill plays the Britten Academy, London, tonight (0171-771 2000)

LYRIC SHEETS

MARTIN NEWELL

Forty years ago this week, during a gruelling tour of the American mid-west, Buddy Holly was killed when the plane which he'd chartered crashed in bad weather

Buddy's Laundry

He wanted to get his laundry done
Ran out of shirts and things like that
Wanted to sleep in a bed that night
The reason that he took the flight.

The real reason that Buddy died
Is most discussed in touring vans
By tired musicians on the run:
He wanted to get his laundry done.

You don't wanna wake up grubby, cold
Crick-in-your-neck on a foggy bus
Missing the missus/daughter/son
No. What you need is your laundry done.

And they never tell you in the mugs
What any working heart-throb knows:
The ratio of gigs to pants,
It sort of kills the whole romance.

So half-way through the average tour:
The interviews, the jokes, the drink,
They're very nice and all of that
But what you crave is a laundromat.

The brilliant songs and banging set
Hide dirty, pissed-off, homesick boys.
An extra date on the "final" leg
For the goose that laid the golden egg.

And in the end you'll hijack time
Take a plane on a dicey night
With bucket loo and a plywood seat
Just to escape the whiff of feet.

And so the reason Buddy died.
Among those theories going on
Musicians often point to one:
He wanted to get his laundry done.

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Fanfare to free form

The late Sixties proved to be a zenith of British jazz.
Richard Williams celebrates its dynamic scene

BRITISH JAZZ has had its ups and downs, but it was surely never more consistently and joyfully elevated than at the very end of the Sixties, when the likes of Mike Westbrook, John Surman, Graham Collier and Keith Tippett were making their reputations with a music which embraced elements of the avant-garde and the mainstream, while chucking in less obvious elements.

Created in a hectic, unreflective rush, their music found an attractive balance between exuberant vigour and intellectual substance. Nights at Ronnie Scott's Old Place and the 100 Club were sweaty, intense, often ecstatic, and usually thought-provoking. This wasn't the first British jazz to display genuine originality, as many discovered with the recent reappearance of Joe Harriott's two long-lost albums. But whereas the Harriott quintet was unique, representing virtually nothing but itself, the work of Westbrook and Surman was at the centre of an entire scene.

Surman, born in 1944, was still a schoolboy when he met Westbrook while playing in Plymouth Arts Centre's Jazz Workshop. He was an authentic prodigy who played the baritone saxophone with a rampaging garrulousness that made every solo a thing of high drama.

Westbrook, 10 years older, was already offering a personal addition to the palette of jazz. He could adapt the tonal range of Duke Ellington and the collective heterophony of Charles Mingus without needing to



Mike Westbrook

appropriate the cultural baggage of those African-American bandleaders; most important of all, what he picked up from them was an understanding of how to link the roles of composer and bandleader, in the manner special to jazz.

Celebration and Release, recorded in 1967 and 1968 respectively, both consist of album-long suites and show how fast the music was moving. The former - co-composed by Surman - is full of broad, generous melodies, with solos to match, the 12-piece line-up given a swaggering swing by Alan Jackson's drums and Harry Miller's bass. The Mingus-like locomotion of the section titled "Parade", featuring a dual improvisation by Surman and the alto saxophonist Mike Osborne, still sounds spectacular, as do the prowling Ellingtonian woodwinds of the atmospheric "Image".

Free improvisation, an occasional feature of *Celebration*, assumes a much greater structural role in *Release*, with its 17 sections, and leaves the

impression of an unusual kind of organic fragmentation. Scored by Westbrook for 10 musicians, it features his own compositions interspersed with brief readings of six times from the standard repertoire.

Beginning with a free-blowing fanfare, it proceeds immediately into a long feature for Osborne, including a plaintive variation of "Lover Man" that will remind his admirers of what we lost when he retired from public performance in his thirties. Other soloists include the tenorist George Khan, muscling into "Flying Home" and "Gee Baby, Ain't I Good To You" like a wild cross between Albert Ayler and Junior Walker, and the trombonists Paul Rutherford and Malcolm Griffiths, a reminder of Ellington's sweet-and-sour pairings.

Originally released alongside the work of Procol Harum and the young Cat Stevens on Deram, the Decca group's "progressive rock" label, the first efforts of Surman and Westbrook may have failed to match commercial expectations, but each retains an excellence that has nothing to do with nostalgia. If I had to pick the half-dozen best recordings from the history of British jazz, the ardent warmth and enduring freshness of *Celebration* would make it a certain choice.

Mike Westbrook Concert Band: *'Celebration'* (Deram 844 852-2); *Release* (844 851-2); John Surman: *'John Surman'* (Deram 844 884-2); *'How Many Clouds Can You See?'* (844 882-2)

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THIS WEEK'S ALBUM RELEASES

REVIEWED BY ANDY GILL



CHUCK E WEISS
Extremely Cool
Slow River/Rykodisc

THE COVER of what is only Chuck E Weiss's second album in 18 years features a shot of him as a teenage tearaway, cigarette drooping from lower lip as he stares the camera down. It's the sensible choice, given that the cult figure now has a face that's not so much lived-in as squatted in by a greengrocer looking for somewhere to store a few extra sacks of spuds.

Weiss is a Los Angeles legend best known as the eponymous subject of Rickie Lee Jones's "Chuck E's in Love", a song rooted in the early-Seventies when Rickie, Chuck and Tom Waits all lived at Hollywood's seedy rock'n'roll hangout, the Tropicana Motel. For 11 years he had a nightly residency at West Hollywood's Central night-club, before joining Johnny Depp in transforming it into the Viper Room. It was sometimes thought that, like the Tropicana, Chuck himself had long since been demolished. But thanks largely to the efforts of Tom Waits - who is co-producer here, as well as co-writing and

sharing vocals on a few tracks - he's delivered this steaming plateful of what Chuck calls "twisted jungle music".

Unsurprisingly, Chuck's style shares several characteristics with Tom's, particularly in the way it's deeply rooted in post-war jazz and blues modes - "Deeply Sorry" could have come straight off Blue Valentine, while "Pygmy Funk" and "Do You Know What I Did Amin" find the pair jamming hipster-five nonsense with the aplomb of Lord Buckley. But there's a more Beefheartian cast to tracks such as "Devil With Blue Suede Shoes", a typically Angeleno slice of electrified country-blues. Chuck also shares something of the Captain's vocal range, slipping from growly baritone to keening falsetto in the space of a single line.

He's a versatile performer, too, turning his hand to cajun music, rock'n'roll, live and cool jazz/poetry sessions, but always with a smirk that prevents them becoming mere dilettante exercises.



SLY AND ROBBIE
Drum & Bass Strip to the Bone by Howie B
Palm Pictures

ON THE face of it, this hook-up between the bespoke reggae/rhythm section and rnb-tailor to the stars, Howie Bernstein, ought to result in some stylish new modes. Unfortunately, while Sly and Robbie are great at creating basic grooves, and Howie has a particular gift for polishing tracks, there's a gaping hole where the melodies should be. Instead, industrial noises and dub effects collude in concealing the shape of the pieces, which are all context and no subject.

The 10-minute opener, "Into Battle", is typical. Swathed in echo, the groove is filtered ruthlessly bottlenecked into a simple pulse, before fragments of the rhythm tracks are allowed to secrete around it. It's a few more minutes before the bass finally flows in, like Tarmac over hardcore, and seven minutes before shards of guitar provide the final decoration. Despite tough, macho titles such as "Exodub Implosion" and "Superthruster", the overall attitude is more one of desultorily hanging around, vainly hoping for something interesting to appear in the scrapyard soundscapes.



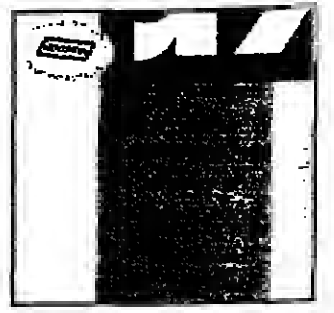
ELVIS PRESLEY
Sunrise
RCA

JUDGING BY Elvis's fate, death is not the end - just the start of an eternal reissue campaign. At least *Sunrise* is worth its position in the schedule, being the original *Sun Sessions* bulked out with an extra CD of out-takes, scratchy live cuts, and the couple of soupy Inkspot-style croons he recorded at Sam Phillips's studio for his mother in 1953. The formal sessions in July 1954 likewise began with limp ballads such as "I Love You Because" and "Harbor Lights", but when Elvis started horsing around with Arthur "Big Boy" Crudup's "That's All Right, Mama" during a coffee-break, the astute Phillips pricked up his ears and wound up playing midwife to rock'n'roll. It's impossible to imagine a world without Elvis, but within songs such as "Mystery Train" one catches glimpses of the youngster whose taste for black artists such as Junior Parker and Rosco Gordon spurred him to that first, epochal blending of country and R&B. As he says after a false start to "Milkcow Blues Boogie", "Hold it fellas - that don't move me; let's get real, real gone for a change!"



THE TRACTORS
Farmers In A Changing World
Arts

THE COVER to The Tractors' second offering - a social-unrealist illustration that's like some jolly midwest American version of a communist poster celebrating record agricultural output - features a flash reading not "New and Improved!" but "Same Great Sound". They're not kidding, either. These Okie veterans have obviously decided that, since their muscular and assured roots-rock sure ain't broke, it certainly don't need fixing. The emphasis is on a jovial backbeat, with Walt Richmond's piano lending an extra barroom bounce to country-funk numbers like the philosophical "The Elvis Thing". The results will find a place in the heart of anyone who ever bought an album by Leon, Little Feat or JJ Cale. Versatile isn't the half of it: The Tractors can take an old chestnut like "Shortenin' Bread" and transform it into swaggery swamp funk, moments after a Western Swing exercise like "How Long Will It Take", and moments before a lachrymose bout of self-pity like "The World's Biggest Fool", with no discernible grinding of gears between styles.



VARIOUS ARTISTS
Kranky Compilation
Kranky

AFTER HARDCORE, thrashcore and sad-core - borecore. Chicago's Kranky label specialises in minimalist drone music from the likes of Bowery Electric and Jessamine, bands who've lingered far too long for their own good over their old My Bloody Valentine albums. *Compilation* is replete with vague low-end loomings and indistinct female murmurs, few of which repay the time spent listening to them. Godspeed You Black Emperor's fragment of "The Dead Flag Blues", a poem set to soothing swells of strings, is quite moving without appearing to go anywhere. Other than that, only Philosophers Stone demonstrate any real ability to transmute base metal tones into something more valuable. The rest is like a competition to see how little music can be made with bass and electric piano, bass and percussion or bass and industrial drone - there's always a bass to hand, and sometimes little else. The results are homogeneously dull, the fun sound of machines humming. It's the engaged tone of rock, the sound of musicians waiting for something to happen. It never does.

I'M SURE I SAW THEM ON A POSTER...

THE INDEPENDENT'S REGULAR ROUND-UP OF NEW BANDS

CHICKS WEREN'T big on lyrics. Their first song saw them shouting "na-na-na na-na-na-na" with no discernible enthusiasm and enacting elementary guitar figures that left the audience slack-jawed in disbelief. Their tunes weren't up to much, either, probably because their vocals were so piercing that only mice would have been able to detect a fluctuation in pitch. Chicks espouse short, punky numbers that are designed to fill you with joyful abandon but left me

virtually weeping into my pint with embarrassment. The three Dublin teenagers have fallen victim to the conviction that youthful attitude is more important than talent. But Chicks' only flash of anarchy - see when they dropped their instruments and gave them a half-hearted kick - seemed prompted only by the prospect of leaving the stage. Innersleeve were hardly an enticing prospect either. They looked as if they were steeling themselves for ritual punishment

as they walked on to the stage. Their opening number harked back to the shoe-gazing days of Ride, but lacked the gravitas of their forebears. But as their songs gathered pace, Innersleeve seemed to warm to their surroundings. Later songs offered more substantial guitars and meatier vocals while their last, largely instrumental track drew together eerily undulating guitars, doom-laden drums and exquisite melodies that made you hold your breath. This epic

CHICKS
ASTORIA, LONDON

INNERSLEEVE
BARFLY, LONDON

KARAMASOV
GARAGE, LONDON

aria seemed eternal, though its conclusion came as a cruel shock and left you gasping. Karamasov seem to have aged before their time. This Anglo-

German quartet slowly nodded their heads and gazed into the middle distance like seasoned session musicians, while their music had a timeless quality that would have sounded just as alluring from a gramophone. Their elaborate mixture of electronica and prog-rock evoked the experimental ruminations of Tortoise and the retro-kitsch of the French duo Air. There were also perfunctory nods to original Krautrockers, Faust and Can. They tinkered with clashing rhythms and seemingly

incongruous sound-effects, and you couldn't help thinking that you might have stumbled upon a jamming session that no one was supposed to hear. This experimental noodling sometimes dissolved into incoherent background noise. But there were glimpses of blissful acoustic melodies that arrived like a blast of fresh air in a sticky sauna. The customary pretentiousness of Karamasov's post-rock genre was far more evident in the crowd than on the

stage. With style magazines babbling about prog rock's revival, it's inevitable that this kind of gig should be full of 18-year-olds in combat trousers and ludicrously large shades. For a band to sound so different from their contemporaries comes as a blessed relief, but the acid test will be how long Karamasov can hold on to this flighty fan-base. Perhaps true devotees know that everything they need to hear is buried deep within their parents' record collection.

FIONA STURGES

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OUT FEBRUARY 5

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www.smcity.com

PC CD

Bayan Northcott previews the rewards and controversies of a month of world music in London and Glasgow

'Roots: Classic Fusions', tomorrow, 1.30pm, Royal Festival Hall, London (box office 0171-960 4342). 'Beyond Our Shores', 23 Feb-3 Mar, Royal Concert Hall, Glasgow (box office 0141 287 5511) and on Radio 3.

FAX: 0171 293 2505

01543 426426

THE PRESS

ERVA PRESS
Old Bromley Rd

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KILBURN
THE TRICKLE CINEMA (0171-328 1000) • Kilburn Hidden
Kilby 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

KINGSTON
ABC OPTIONS (0870-9020409) BR: Kingston A Bug's Life 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm Little Voice 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm Shakespeare in Love 2.10pm, 5.25pm, 8.10pm

MUSWELL HILL
ODEON (08705 050007) • Highgate A Bug's Life 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm Shakespeare in Love 1.25pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm Stepmom 1pm, 3.35pm, 6.05pm, 8.35pm

PRESTON
PREMIER (0181-235 3006) BR: Preston A Bug's Life 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm Little Voice 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm Shakespeare in Love 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm

PURLEY
ABC (0870-9020407) BR: Purley A Bug's Life 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm Little Voice 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm Shakespeare in Love 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm

PUTNEY
ABC (0870-9020401) BR: Putney A Bug's Life 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm Little Voice 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm Shakespeare in Love 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm

RICHMOND
ODEON (08705 050007) BR: Richmond A Bug's Life 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm Little Voice 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm Shakespeare in Love 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm

ROCHFORD
ABC (0870-9020419) BR: Rochford A Bug's Life 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm Little Voice 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm Shakespeare in Love 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm

ROMFORD
ABC (0870-9020419) BR: Romford A Bug's Life 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm Little Voice 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm Shakespeare in Love 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm

ROTHAMPTON
ODEON LIBERTY 2 08705 050007 BR: Rothampton A Bug's Life 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm Little Voice 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm Shakespeare in Love 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm

SIDCUP
ABC (0870-9020419) BR: Sidcup A Bug's Life 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm Little Voice 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm Shakespeare in Love 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm

STAPLETON
VIRGIN (0870-9070717) BR: Stapleton A Bug's Life 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm Little Voice 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm Shakespeare in Love 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm

STRATFORD
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WALTON ON THAMES
THE SCREEN AT WALTON (01932-252825) BR: Walton on Thames
Shakespeare in Love 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm

WIMBORNE
ODEON (08705 050007) BR: Wimborne A Bug's Life 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm Little Voice 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm Shakespeare in Love 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm

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THEATRE
WEST END

Ticket availability details are for today, times and prices for the week, running times include intervals. • Seats at all prices • Seats at some prices • Returns only

ALARM AND EXCURSIONS
Michael Praeger's new comedy about a dinner party which is interrupted by mysterious messages stars Felicity Kendal and Josie Lawrence. Gielgud Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065) • PCC Circ. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Sun 7.15pm, £12.50-£27.50-£50-£75 (restricted views), 130 mins.

AMADEUS
David Susskind stars in Susskind's Peter Shaffer's acclaimed drama based on the life of Mozart. Old Vic Theatre, SW1 (0171-928 7616/CC 420 0000) BR/VC Waterloo, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Sun 7.15pm, £12.50-£27.50-£50-£75 (restricted views), 130 mins.

ANNE BARR
Riches to riches story of the optimistic orphan, Victoria, who is a victim of a dinner party which is interrupted by mysterious messages stars Felicity Kendal and Josie Lawrence. Gielgud Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065) • PCC Circ. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Sun 7.15pm, £12.50-£27.50-£50-£75 (restricted views), 130 mins.

ART
Tom Manton, Danny Webb, Gary Olsen in Yasmina Reza's comedy about art and friendship. Wyndham's Charing Cross Road, W1 (0171-369 1736/CC 867 1111) • Lek. Sat, Tue-Sat 8pm, Sun 7.15pm, £9.50-£27.50, 90 mins.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST
Lush musical based on Disney's cartoon version of the favourite fairy tale. Dominion Theatre, W1 (0171-369 1736/CC 867 1111) • Lek. Sat, Tue-Sat 8pm, Sun 7.15pm, £9.50-£27.50, 90 mins.

BLOOD BROTHERS
Willy Russell's long-running Liverpool musical melodrama. Phoenix Charing Cross Road, W1 (0171-369 1736/CC 867 1111) • Lek. Sat, Tue-Sat 8pm, Sun 7.15pm, £9.50-£27.50, 90 mins.

BUDDY
Musical about a boy who is a victim of a dinner party which is interrupted by mysterious messages stars Felicity Kendal and Josie Lawrence. Gielgud Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065) • PCC Circ. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Sun 7.15pm, £12.50-£27.50-£50-£75 (restricted views), 130 mins.

CATS
Lloyd Webber's musical version of T.S. Eliot's poem. Sondheim Theatre, W1 (0171-405 0072/CC 404 0079) • Covent Garden/Holborn, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, Sun 7.15pm, £12.50-£35, 165 mins.

CHICAGO
Maria Friedman and Peter Davison star in this hit Broadway musical about two murderous women and their night club act. Adelphi Theatre, W1 (0171-349 0055) • Charing X, Mon-Sat 8pm, Sun 7.15pm, £16-£36 (incl. booking fee), 130 mins.

THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED)
Reduced Shakespeare Company fast-forwards through 37 plays. Criterion Piccadilly Circus, W1 (0171-369 1736/CC 867 1111) • Lek. Sat, Tue-Sat 8pm, Sun 7.15pm, £16-£36 (incl. booking fee), 130 mins.

COPENHAGEN
New drama from Michael Praeger about the discovery of the atom. Duchess Theatre, W1 (0171-494 5075/CC 344 4444) • Covent Garden, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Sun 7.15pm, £12.50-£27.50-£50-£75 (restricted views), 130 mins.

DOLORE
Philip Schofield tells us the animals in this new stage adaptation. Theatr'le, W1 (0171-494 5075/CC 344 4444) • Covent Garden, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Sun 7.15pm, £12.50-£27.50-£50-£75 (restricted views), 130 mins.

THE GLORY OF LIVING
Drama set amongst the trailer parks of southern America from new playwright Rebecca Gilman. Royal Court Upstairs, W1 (0171-565 5000) • Lek. Sat, Tue-Sat 8pm, Sun 7.15pm, £12.50-£27.50-£50-£75 (restricted views), 130 mins.

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LES MISÉRABLES
Mus

FRIDAY RADIO

PICK OF THE DAY

THERE'S A welcome repeat for the novelist Louise Doughty's feature Great-Grandad Had a Flat Head (11am R4), in which she contrasts the lives of her Roman ancestors with those of today's travellers. Her roving investigation takes her to Barnet Horse Fair and Peterborough, where she chats to her aunt. In Morley at the Musicals (7pm R2), the theatre critic

Sheridan Morley makes the first of six forays into the world of stage musicals. Today's programme looks at treatments of American political life. Trevor Barnes' examination of serious theological questions, Believe It or Not (11pm R2), ponders the existence of the Devil. Toyah Willcox (right), of all people, has something to tell us. DOMINIC CAVENTISH



RADIO 1 (87.5-93.8MHz FM)
6.30 Zoe Ball 9.00 Simon Mayo
12.00 Kevin Greening 2.00 Mark Radcliffe 4.00 Chris Moyles 5.45 Newsbeat 6.00 Pete Tong's Essential Selection 9.00 Judge Jules
11.00 Westwood - Radio 1 Rap Show 2.00 Fabio and Grooverider 4.00 - 7.00 Emma B

RADIO 2 (88-92MHz FM)
6.00 Alex Lester 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 12.00 Jimmy Young 2.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 Sean Hughes 7.00 Morley at the Musicals See Pick of the Day 7.30 Friday Night in Music Night 9.45 Frankenstein 9.30 Listen to the Band 10.00 David Jacobs 11.00 Believe It or Not See Pick of the Day 12.00 Lynn Parsons 4.00 - 6.00 Lata Sharma

RADIO 3 (90.2-92.4MHz FM)
6.00 On Air 9.30 Masterworks 10.30 Artist of the Week 11.00 Sound Stories 12.00 Composer of the Week: Liszt 1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert 2.00 The BBC Orchestras 4.00 Music Restored 4.45 Music Machine Already pop music in the past has recreated the sound and fashions of the 1960s, 70s and 80s. But where is the new sound of the nineties? Many commentators are angry at the waves of nostalgia but still recognise that the 1990s has been an important decade for pop. Tommy Pearson talks to Caitlin Moran and Colin Larkin 5.00 In Tune Sean Rafferty is joined by flamenco guitarist Paco Pena, whose new dance drama, 'La musa gitana', based on the life of the Andalusian painter Julo Romero de Torres, opened this week in London. Music includes 6.05 Mozart: Overture 'Don Giovanni' BBC Scottish SO/Andrea Quinn 6.40 Copland: Four Dance Episodes (Rodeo) 7.30 Performance on 3 Live from the Music Hall, Aberdeen. Conductor Osno Vanska, Elisabeth Batistavili (Violin), James MacMillan: The Confession of Isobel Gowdie, Beethoven: Violin Concerto in D 8.40 News from North Britain, Five

new stories from Scotland. 3: 'Coloured Lights', by Lella Aboulela. For a young journalist working for the World Service, the Christmas lights of shop windows in London spark off a series of memories of life - and death - in Sudan. 9.00 Concert, part 2: Sibelius: Symphony No. 1 9.50 Postscript Patrick Wright talks to five unusual, witty and engaging figures on the cultural scene who are distinguished by their originality and imagination: 5: Marion Boyars A leading publisher of the avant-garde since 1960, Marion Boyars introduced British readers to Georges Bataille, Michael Ondaatje and Ivan Illich. She discusses how she has fought to bring new ideas to audiences who do not always think that they need them. 10.30 BBC Symphony Orchestra. Conductor Martyn Brabbins, Valdeine Anderson (soprano), Boulez Pi salon pi 11.30 Jazz Century 12.00 Composer of the Week: Taverner

RADIO 4 (92.4-94.6MHz FM)
6.00 Today 9.00 NEWS: Desert Island Discs 9.45 Serial: Best American Essays (R) 10.00 NEWS: Woman's Hour 11.00 NEWS: Great-Grandad Had a Flat Head See Pick of the Day (R) 12.00 The Oldest Member 12.00 NEWS: You and Yours 12.57 Weather

1.00 The World at One
1.30 Puzzle Panel
2.00 NEWS: The Archers
2.15 Afternoon Play: Say It with Flowers
3.00 NEWS: Logged On
3.30 A View with a Room
3.45 This Scrooped Tale
4.00 NEWS: Open Book
4.00 NEWS: The Message
5.00 PM
5.57 Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 The Ghost of Number Ten A six-part political farce by Steve Nallon and Taran All 5: 'Here Come the Grooms'. When a gay junior minister gets married to his Swedish boyfriend, the prime minister comes under pressure from home and from Europe to recognise their marriage in British law. With Maggie Steed, Mark Williams, Steve Nallon, Jan Ravens and Andrew Wincott
7.00 NEWS: The Archers
7.30 Front Row Mark Lawson with the arts programme
7.45 Speaking for Themselves Ten dramatic excerpts from the letters of Britain's great wartime leader and his wife Clementine, taken from the newly published collection edited by their daughter, Mary Soames. With Alex Jennings as Winston, Sylvester as Churchill, and Helen Baxendale as Clementine. Part 5
8.00 NEWS: Any Questions? Jonathan Dimbleby is joined in Walsall, West Midlands, by panelists Dennis Skinner MP, the Rev Michael Santer, Bishop of Birmingham; Sir Patrick Mayhew; and Trevor Kavanagh, political editor of 'The Sun'.

8.45 Letter from America Alistair Cooke with another slice of Americana
9.00 NEWS: The Friday Play: Emergency By Robin Glendinning. During the Second World War, or the emergency, as the Irish call it, a German captain lands in Ireland and has many comic and bizarre adventures trying to recruit the help of the IRA to invade Britain. With Patrick O'Kane, Stella McCusker and Alan Barry. Director Roland Jarek
10.00 The World Tonight With Robin Lustig
10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Sound of Trumpets The political shenanigans in the constituency of Hartlepool and Worsfield South come to a climax in this final episode from John Mortimer's novel. Will Lord Timmus still be king of his local area, or has his home been usurped? Reader Rik Mayall
11.00 NEWS: Lates Tackle Eleanor O'Leary and guests take a look at the week in sport and preview the Five Nations rugby championship
11.30 Front Page Sport
12.00 News
12.30 The Late Book: Lemonade Talk By Ken Saro-Wiwa (S10). The shady world of supply contracts and the single girl
12.48 Shipping Forecast
1.00 As World Service
5.30 World News
5.35 Shipping Forecast
5.40 Inshore Forecast
5.45 Prayer for the Day
5.47 Leisure Update
5.56 - 6.00 Weather

RADIO 4 LW (198kHz)
9.45 - 10.00 An Act of Worship
12.00 - 12.04 News Headlines
Shipping Forecast 5.54 - 5.57 Shipping Forecast 11.30 - 6.00 To-day in Parliament

RADIO 5 LIVE (693.90kHz MW)
6.00 Breakfast
9.00 Nicky Campbell
12.00 The Midday News
1.00 Ruscoe and Co
4.00 Drive
7.00 News Extra
7.30 Alan Green's Sportsnight Alan Green and his studio guests discuss the week's sporting issues. Plus updates and commentary from Bristol City v QPR in Division One
10.00 Late Night Live Insight and comment on the day's big issues with Brian Hayes. Including at 11: The Financial World Tonight
1.00 Up All Night
5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports

CLASSIC FM (100.1-101.9MHz FM)
6.00 Nick Bailey 8.00 Henry Kelly
12.00 Requests 2.00 Concerto
3.00 Jamie Cullum 6.30 Newsnight
7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven
9.00 Evening Concert 11.00 Alan Mann 2.00 Concerto 3.00 - 6.00 Mark Griffiths

VIRGIN RADIO (1215, 187-126kHz MW 105.8MHz FM)
6.30 Chris Evans 9.30 Mark Forster 1.00 Nick Abbot 4.00 Harriet Scott 7.00 Wheels of Steel 11.00 Janey Lee Grace 2.00 - 6.00 Steve Power

WORLD SERVICE RADIO (198kHz LW)
1.00 The World Today 1.30 Meridian (Books) 2.00 The World Today 2.30 People and Politics 3.00 The World Today 3.20 Sports Roundup 3.30 World Business Report 3.45 Insight 4.00 The World Today 4.30 Weekend 5.00 The World Today 5.30 - 6.00 My Century

TALK RADIO
6.00 David Banks and Nick Ferrari
9.00 Scott Chisholm 1.00 Anna Raeburn 3.00 OK to Talk 5.00 The SportZone 8.00 Jackie Mason - Live from New York 10.00 Dave Barrett's Phone-In with the Midnight Psychic 2.00 - 6.00 Mike Dickinson

INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

CHES

JON SPEELMAN

DURING HIS signal victory at Wijk aan Zee, Gary Kasparov won no fewer than eight of the 13 games. I've already focused twice on the masterpiece against Veselin Topalov but several of the others were also excellent, especially his win in the penultimate round against Peter Svidler, who before this game even had a plus score - a win and two draws - against him.

As Kasparov explained in the press conference after the game, he had reserved this novelty in a line which he has "...been analysing since 1995", especially for Svidler, preferring to play 1 e4 against his other potential Grunfeld customer, Loek Van Wely.

With 5 Qb3 he resuscitated a venerable variation, which before this game was somewhat in the doldrums but "is now back in business". 11 Be3 is a novelty instead of the usual 11 Qxe6+. "My 11th was a positional move. The idea is to respond to 11 ... Nf6 with 12 a4 and to 11 ... Nb6 with 12 b4."

Kasparov admitted that the excellent 15 Rd1! "was found by the computer".

"17 ... h5 was 'the only reasonable move: 17 ... h5g6' would have lost by force after 18 Qc2".

The cleanest 1 myself could find was 18 ... Qe8 19 Bc3 dxc3 20 Bxg6 Qb1 21 Bb7+ Kh8 22 Rd4! when a1 22 ... Bxd4 23 Bg8+ Kg7 24 Rg1+ Kb6 25 Qe4 Bxd4+ 26 Kxd2 Qb6 27 Qd4+ K5 28 Bb7+ Qxh7 29 Qe4+ Kf6 30 Qxh7 wins; b1 22 Rd4 e5 23 Rd4 Qb6 24 bxc3? Rb5 25 Qb3 e6 26 Rg4 Nd5 27 Be4+ Kg8 28 Rhg1 Rb7 29 Bxd5 exd5 30 Qxd5+ Kf8 31 Qc5+ etc.

18 Rh5! was Kasparov's best

move of the game: "Over the board I found 18 Rh5, which I think is very strong, because Black cannot put his Knight on the d5-square now. White has to push. If Black has time to get counterplay, he is all right. Co-ordination is the most important factor in this position. Now he is virtually forced to take the g6 pawn."

Instead of 21 ... Qf7: "If 21 ... Qf5, I take with the Rook on d1. This is very important. And after 21 ... Qf5, I can play 22 f4 and put my Queen on g3."

It seems that 26 ... Re5? was the decisive error: "26 ... Nd5 was the right defence, after which there is no clear cut, direct win for White. But now, after 26 ... Re5? 27 Ne2 both Svidler and I recognised that the game was over."

At the end, not only was Kasparov the exchange up, but he also had a withering attack. Svidler had had enough.

White: Gary Kasparov
Black: Peter Svidler
Wijk aan Zee (round 12)
Grunfeld Defence

1 d4 Nf6	17 hxg6 h6
2 c4 g5	18 Rh5! Qe8
3 Nc3 d5	19 Ne2 Qxg6
4 Nf3 Bg7	20 Rh1 Kh8
5 Qb3 dxc3	21 Rg1 Qf7
6 Qxc4 Qd0	22 Nxd4 Nd5
7 e4 a6	23 Qd3 Bd7
8 e5 b5	24 Qe4 Rcd8
9 Qb3 Nf7	25 Bb3 Nf6
10 e6 fxe6	26 Qh4 Re5?
11 Be3 Nf6	27 Ne2 Nd5
12 h4 Ne6	28 Rg6 Qf8
13 h5 Rd3	29 Qe4 Qf7
14 exd5 Nxd4	30 Kd2! Nf6
15 Rd1 c5	31 Qc3 1-0
16 Bxd4 cxd4	

BRIDGE

ALAN HIRON

ON THIS deal from match-play, one South had what can only be described as a death wish. His counterpart, on the other hand, could see no problem on the hand. In the odd way that these things go, it was the team of the unsuccessful declarer who ran out comfortable winners of the match.

The bidding and opening lead were the same at both tables - South opened One Spade, West overcalled with Two Clubs and, after some preliminaries, North raised to game and West led the ace and another heart against Four Spades.

It seemed fairly clear that West was angling for a heart ruff. With no great enthusiasm one South won in hand and simply led a trump. Now it was easy for the defence - East won, gave his partner the expected ruff, and now West exited safely with a diamond. In the fullness of time, when the club finessé failed, declarer lost a fourth trick and the contract.

At the other table, South was more far-sighted. Correctly he judged that it would be dangerous to play trumps immediately and he started with the ace and king of diamonds and then ruffed a diamond, before playing a trump. As before, East won, but now had a problem. Would it be better to lead a club or

North-South game:
dealer South

North
♠ Q1074
♥ KJ6
♦ AK92
♣ 52

East
♠ A3
♥ 98752
♦ QJ753
♣ KJ10973 84

South
♠ KJ986
♥ Q104
♦ A6
♣ A6

give his partner the required heart ruff? He thought for so long that South, tired of waiting, faced his cards and claimed. On a club return, he explained, he would win with the ace, draw trumps, and gracefully concede a club. If, on the other hand, East gave his partner the expected ruff, then West, on lead, would have to lead a club into South's tenace. His claim was a little premature - just conceivably West might have held a fourth diamond or even a third trump - but all was well and his opponents had to concede.

SATELLITE AND CABLE

PICK OF THE DAY

THE POPULARITY of the Russian president, Boris Yeltsin, who is profiled tonight on Biography (9pm History Channel), has decreased markedly since his heyday when he mounted a tank in the streets of Moscow to see off an attempted coup. Weakened by a grave financial crisis, illness and a fondness for drink, Yeltsin's ratings are at their lowest ebb since he took on the job in 1991. He is now only clinging onto power by virtue of ceding many

of his responsibilities to the parliament with which he is always warring. Sigourney Weaver (right), featured on today's Femmes Fatales (8pm Sky Movies), has carved a niche for herself as an archetypal strong actress. Perhaps her seminal role has been as Ripley, the indomitable space traveller battling the scarily unconquerable monster in the Alien cycle of films. JAMES RAMPTON



SKY PREMIER
6.00 Cloak and Dagger (1994) (1699)
8.00 Calm at Sunset (1996) (3005)
10.00 One Fine Day (1996) (7105)
12.00 It Takes Two (1995) (59056) 2.00 Cloak and Dagger (1994) (12476) 4.00 Calm at Sunset (1996) (3005) 6.00 It Takes Two (1995) (59056) 8.00 One Fine Day (1996) (7105) 10.00 Vampire in Brooklyn (1988) (22144) 11.45 The Juror (1994) (33763) 1.40 Desperate Trail (1994) (23254) 3.15 - 6.00 Working Girl (1988) (716357)

SKY MOVIE MAX
7.30 Back to the Planet of the Apes (1974) (3742209) 9.00 Back to the Beach (1987) (58327) 11.00 Time to Say Goodbye (1997) (4259) 1.00 All the Winters That Have Been (1997) (52143) 3.00 Back to the Beach (1987) (33388) 5.00 Time to Say Goodbye (1997) (4259) 7.00 preview (7259) 7.30 UK Top Ten (1358) 8.00 Femmes Fatales (3575) See Pick of the Day 8.30 Movie Magic (514) 9.00 Ice (1998) (81018) 10.30 Contagious (1997) (2521) 12.00 Spit (1996) (2631) 1.30 Carriers (1997) (70209) 3.45 Deadlocked: Escape from Zone 14 (1992) (25849) 4.40 - 7.00 All the Winters That Have Been (1997) (52143)

SKY CINEMA
4.00 The Big Clock (1946) (7853501) 6.00 Beware, My Lovely (1952) (1215321) 8.00 To Each His Own (1946) (1277765) 10.00 Brubaker (1980) (4862634) 12.00 The French Connection II (1975) (527475) 2.05 The Sniper (1950) (3004588) 3.40 Two for the Road (1967) (245549) 5.20 Close

FLICK FOUR
6.00 Short Attention Span Cinema (815018) 8.00 Barcelona (1994) (6665852) 9.40 La Reval (2647501) 10.00 Metropolis (1980) (4266634) 12.00 Rabi (1977) (259235) 1.35 Un Fil (1972) (1940734) 3.40 - 6.00 Port Break (1991) (5847380)

DISCOVERY CHANNEL
4.00 Rex Hunt Specials (733969) 4.30 Walker's World (724253) 5.00 Wheel Nuts (480827) 5.30 History's Turning Points (733105) 6.00 Animal Doctor (733018) 6.30 Adventures of the Quest (566566) 7.30 Beyond 2000 (733382) 8.00 Outback Adventure (568281) 9.00 Uncharted Africa (4884018) 9.00 Snow Coaches (645575) 10.00 The Bounty Hunter (6458872) 10.00 Weapons of War (993030) 12.00 Barry Gray (6454070) 1.00 History's Turning

Points (892588) 1.30 Wheel Nuts (312449) 2.00 Close

SKY ONE
7.00 Count Duckula (44230) 7.30 The Chris Evans Breakfast Show (94259) 8.30 Hollywood Squares (40747) 9.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (50634) 10.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (59921) 11.00 Gaiety (9875) 12.00 Jenny Jones (6558) 1.00 Med about Ya (63501) 1.30 Jeopardy (78018) 2.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (4721) 3.00 Jenny Jones (66330) 4.00 Gaiety (99037) 5.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (1834) 6.00 Married with Children (5765) 6.30 Friends (6018) 7.00 The Simpsons (2563) 7.30 The Simpsons (2563) 8.00 Seal the Crusher (40252) 9.00 Surviving the Moment of Impact 3 (20495) 10.00 Cops (23582) 11.00 Friends (80765) 11.30 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (55501) 12.30 The Commish (4322) 1.30 - 7.00 Long Play (783490)

SKY SPORTS 1
6.30 Futures in Sport (80840) 7.00 World Wrestling Federation Superstars (67898) 8.00 European Tour Golf (78105) 8.30 World Wrestling Federation Raw (5167) 9.00 Hold the Back Page (2523) 4.00 Friday Night Football Bristol City v QPR (5367) 5.30 - 6.00 Teletext (551322)

SKY SPORTS 2
7.00 Racing News (943639) 9.30 International Cricket Australia vs England (64271) 11.00 The Rugby Club (403395) 12.00 Survival of the Fittest (543678) 12.30 International Cricket South Africa v West Indies (781578) 4.00 International Cricket (841456) 4.30 Ireland The Cricket South Africa vs West Indies (60767) 5.00 International Cricket (555712) 10.00 Fordy Golf USA (455582) 12.00 Friday Night Football Bristol City v QPR (470254) 1.30 International Cricket South Africa vs West Indies (40767) 2.30 The Cricket South Africa vs West Indies (60767) 3.30 World Cup (549898) 5.30 - 6.00 Extreme Sailing (788254)

SKY SPORTS 3
11.30 Futures in Sport (781234) 12.00 Transworld Sport (572410) 1.00 Fish TV: Tight Lines (572853) 2.00 Bobby Charlton's Football Scrapbook (665879) 3.00 Spanish Football (665879) 4.00 MotoGP (675898) 9.00 Extreme Sailing (784281) 6.30 Inside the PGA Tour (879583) 7.00 Friday Night Football Bristol City v QPR (470254)

8.00 European Tour Golf (5347) 10.00 Sky Sports Centre (55582) 11.00 Hold the Back Page (7850) 12.00 Sky Sports Centre (5550) 1.00 World Wrestling Federation Raw (5167) 3.00 Hold the Back Page (2523) 4.00 Friday Night Football Bristol City v QPR (5367) 5.30 - 6.00 Teletext (551322)

EUROSPORT
7.30 Golf (5161) 8.30 Snowboarding (20582) 9.00 Winter X Games (44232) 10.00 Racing Line (2619) 11.00 Golf (8255) 1.00 Snowboarding (27963) 1.30 Tennis (64414) 5.00 Alpine Skiing (7894) 6.30 The Bill (652505) 7.00 Athletics (8678) 8.00 Alpine Skiing (77327) 9.00 Luge (5678) 9.30 Alpine Skiing (53308) 10.00 Boxing (5053) 11.00 Playlife (5428) 11.30 Winter X Games (36458) 12.30 Close

UK GOLD
7.00 Crossroads (923018) 7.30 Neighbours (45300) 7.55 EastEnders (672019) 8.35 The Bill (652505) 9.00 The Bill (652505) 9.30 When the Boat Comes In (533245) 10.30 Rhoda (823252) 11.00 Dallas (421485) 11.55 Neighbours (788570) 12.25 EastEnders (784988) 1.00 Juliet Bravo (56784) 2.00 Dallas (652505) 2.55 The Bill (652505) 3.25 The Bill (652505) 3.55 EastEnders (604088) 4.30 Rhoda (57421) 5.00 All Creatures Great and Small (488022) 6.00 Dynasty (376150) 7.00 The Comedy Alternative: 2004 Children (562572) 7.40 The Comedy Alternative: Dead Army (776414) 8.30 The Comedy Alternative: The Detectives (604921) 9.00 The Thin Blue Line (870321) 9.40 Knowing Me, Knowing You, with Alan Partridge (286105) 10.20 Ruby Wax Meets... Heidi Fries (547786) 11.00 The Bill (653143) 11.30 The Bill (653143) 12.00 Dr Who Omnibus (655466) 3.00 - 7.00 Shopping with Screenplay (669894)

LIVING
6.00 Tiny and Crew (7303014) 6.30 Johnson and Friends (839474) 6.30 Philbert the Frog (2028501) 6.40 Tiny Tales (8447505) 6.45 Barney and the Gang (84474327) 6.50 Polka Dot Shorts (8445282) 7.00 Practical Parenting (514292) 7.05 Professor Bubble (8755476) 7.30 Callio (100358) 7.35 Bug Alert (780388) 7.55 Practical Parenting (8445308) 8.00 Barney and Friends (445378) 8.25 Baboloo (196010) 8.30 Callio (823182) 8.35 Tiny and Crew (5504327) 8.50 Practical Parenting (744766) 9.00 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (522828) 9.30 The Roseanne Show - Highlights (5338308) 10.00 The Jerry Springer Show (565572) 10.50 Maury Povich (745919) 11.40 Living Issues (6572143) 12.00 Animal Rescue (2275495) 12.00 Rescue 911 (8695534) 12.00 Special Babies (911261) 1.40 Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction (666567) 2.40 LA Law (977821) 3.40 Living Room (287563) 4.00 Michael Cole (878921) 4.50 Rolonda (5287573) 5.40 Ready, Steady, Cook (479888) 6.55 The Jerry Springer Show (516143) 7.05 Rescue 911 (254258) 7.35 Animal Rescue (827034) 8.00 Maury Povich (402874) 9.00 Film: Al She Ever Wanted (1996) (124878) 11.00 The Sex Zone (717036) 12.00 Close

TNT
9.00 WCW Nitro (8893778) 11.35 WCW Thunder (8870563) 1.05 Where the Spies Are (1995) (6870435) 3.45 Show in Africa (1979) (4204163) 5.00 Close

PARAMOUNT COMEDY CHANNEL
7.00 Cuscut (1413) 7.30 Grace Under Fire (2834) 8.00 Ellen (4563) 8.30 Newsradio (3698) 9.00 Cybill (35833) 9.30 Vic Reeves' Big Night Out (59582) 10.00 The Rutles (4722) 11.30 The Larry Sanders Show (75018) 12.00 Late Night with David Letterman (19148) 1.00 The (1202) 1.30 The Critic (26893) 2.00 Dr Katz (38099) 2.30 Ties and Fibs (17505) 3.00 Nightstand (28988) 3.30 Abbott & Costello (3186) 4.00 Close

TYNE TEES
As Yorkshire except: 12.20 North East News and Weather (875479) 3.30 North East News Headlines (860835) 5.55 North East Weather (74044) 8.00 North East Tonight (7424) 10.30 North East News (19543)

S4C
As Channel 4 except: 9.00 Ysgolion/Schools (2038292) 12.00 Home Improvement (2874578) 12.30 Sesame Street (8383835) 1.00 Planned Plant (5435525) 1.30 Route to Success (7700037) 1.50 Film: The Virgin Queen (7700227) 4.30 Dallas (626259) 5.00 Planned Plant (1477747) 5.30 Countdown (627303) 6.00 Newyddion (5452233) 6.30 Heno (8485037) 7.00 Pobol y Cwm (8470021) 7.30 Newyddion (6127765) 8.00 Cwm Oriel (6470229) 8.30 Y Cwll Rydych chi (6475768) 9.00 Pawl at Farn (6220209) 10.00 Brookside (6045476) 10.35 Fraser (5884444) 11.05 Graham Norton... So Connected (4002233) 11.40 12 Friday (7303877) 12.50 Streetmate (5552502) 1.30 4 Lat er: The Real Paul Show (2040272) 1.50 Johnny Meets Madonna (1498980) 2.50 4 Lat er: The Real Paul Show (2040272) 3.50 4 Lat er: The Real Paul Show (2040272) 4.50 4 Lat er: The Real Paul Show (2040272) 5.50 4 Lat er: The Real Paul Show (2040272) 6.50 4 Lat er: The Real Paul Show (2040272) 7.50 4 Lat er: The Real Paul Show (2040272) 8.50 4 Lat er: The Real Paul Show (2040272) 9.50 4 Lat er: The Real Paul Show (2040272) 10.50 4 Lat er: The Real Paul Show (2040272) 11.50 4 Lat er: The Real Paul Show (2040272) 12.50 4 Lat er: The Real Paul Show (2040272)

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

BBC1 N IRELAND
As BBC1 London excepts 6.30 Newsline 6.30 (768)

BBC1 SCOTLAND
As BBC1 London excepts 12.30 Luch is Fannh (Mouse and Mole) (26529476) 12.35 Oran agus Rannan (Song and Rhyme) (2653547) 1.00 The Big End (2653547) 1.00 Newsline (600898) 6.00 Newsline (600898) 6.30 Newsline (600898) 7.00 Newsline (600898) 7.30 Newsline (600898) 8.00 Newsline (600898) 8.30 Newsline (600898) 9.00 Newsline (600898) 9.30 Newsline (600898) 10.00 Newsline (600898) 10.30 Newsline (600898) 11.00 Newsline (600898) 11.30 Newsline (600898) 12.00 Newsline (600898) 12.30 Newsline (600898) 1.00 Newsline (600898) 1.30 Newsline (600898) 2.00 Newsline (600898) 2.30 Newsline (600898) 3.00 Newsline (600898) 3.30 Newsline (600898) 4.00 Newsline (600898) 4.30 Newsline (600898) 5.00 Newsline (600898) 5.30 Newsline (600898) 6.00 Newsline (600898) 6.30 Newsline (600898) 7.00 Newsline (600898) 7.30 Newsline (600898) 8.00 Newsline (600898) 8.30 Newsline (600898) 9.00 Newsline (600898) 9.30 Newsline (600898) 10.00 Newsline (600898) 10.30 Newsline (600898) 11.00 Newsline (600898) 11.30 Newsline (600898) 12.00 Newsline (600898) 12.30 Newsline (600898) 1.00 Newsline (600898) 1.30 Newsline (600898) 2.00 Newsline (600898) 2.30 Newsline (600898) 3.00 Newsline (600898) 3.30 Newsline (600898) 4.00 Newsline (600898) 4.30 Newsline (600898) 5.00 Newsline (600898) 5.30 Newsline (600898) 6.00 Newsline (600898) 6.30 Newsline (600898) 7.00 Newsline (600898) 7.30 Newsline (600898) 8.00 Newsline (600898) 8.30 Newsline (600898) 9.00 Newsline (600898) 9.30 Newsline (600898) 10.00 Newsline (600898) 10.30 Newsline (600898) 11.00 Newsline (600898) 11.30 Newsline (600898) 12.00 Newsline (600898) 12.30 Newsline (600898) 1.00 Newsline (600898) 1.30 Newsline (600898) 2.00 Newsline (600898) 2.30 Newsline (600898) 3.00 Newsline (600898) 3.30 Newsline (600898) 4.00 Newsline (600898) 4.30 Newsline (600898) 5.00 Newsline (600898) 5.30 Newsline (600898) 6.00 Newsline (600898) 6.30 Newsline (600898) 7.00 Newsline (600898) 7.30 Newsline (600898) 8.00 Newsline (600898) 8.30 Newsline (600898) 9.00 Newsline (600898) 9.30 Newsline (600898) 10.00 Newsline (600898) 10.30 Newsline (600898) 11.00 Newsline (600898) 11.30 Newsline (600898) 12.00 Newsline (600898) 12.30 Newsline (600898) 1.00 Newsline (600898) 1.30 Newsline (600898) 2.00 Newsline (600898) 2.30 Newsline (600898) 3.00 Newsline (600898) 3.30 Newsline (600898) 4.00 Newsline (600898) 4.30 Newsline (600898) 5.00 Newsline (600898) 5.30 Newsline (600898) 6.00 Newsline (600898) 6.30 Newsline (600898) 7.00 Newsline (600898) 7.30 Newsline (600898) 8.00 Newsline (600898) 8.30 Newsline (6

THE FRIDAY REVIEW
The Independent 5 February 1995

Channel 5

8.00 **S News and Sport** (670303), **9.00** **WideWorld** (R) (T) (671259), **9.30** **Minskiefel** (S) (415353), **9.35** **Winners House** (S) (832178), **9.00** **HawaiiJazz**, **9.45** (40529), **9.30** **Dippedout** (Fern) (S) (418220), **9.00** **Making It** (S) (7) (Ferry69), **9.25** **Russell Gentry's Poetsville** (R) (752307), **9.30** **The Oprah Winfrey Show** (682882), **10.00** **Survival Beach** (S) (7) (67264), **11.00** **Lazav** (S) (416307), **12.00** **5.00 News at Noon** (S) (417678), **12.30** **Family Affairs** (R) (S) (7) (67122), **1.00** **The Bold and the Beautiful** (670230), **1.30** **The Nuisance Show** (S) (67153), **2.00** **100 Per Cent Good** (656282), **2.30** **Good Afternoon** (670672).

misinterpreted by Horacio (S) (8587835).
6.500 100 Per Cent. The game show without a host (S) (8520327).
6.500 *Parently Attractive*. Paul thinks Ray is mad. Duely is a depressed woman who while the headmaster. Don't ask. (S) (7) (8543589).
7.000 5 News (S) (T) (8577308).
7.500 Wild Western. Wildlife documentary about bullfrogs and crocodiles, which are usually thought of as friendly creatures, but that's not a little perspective. (8558507).
8.000 Was it Good for You? Holidaymakers with children attempt to unmover the magic of Disney. Good luck. (S) (8386056).
8.500 Holiday Park. Kettlebraven park, door-swing (it doesn't come much cheaper than this). Boas. Colin Saunders celebrates convincing *Frederick* at Carfax Court. Harrison to buy a coven. (S) (8558583).
9.000 *U.S.A. search for justice*. Noel Nosseck. 1988 film. A search for a more interesting life might have been more profitable. The one-woman year stars *Two Pints of Tears* actress Pegu Lupon as a mother trying to get to the bottom of her daughter's death. Her marriage had broken down, but was she near suicide? Or is her death limited to the couple she watched before her disappearance? (S) (T) (8583027).

DROP THE DEAD DONKEY WEEKEND

- 1.45 **Elm Hollywood Madam** (Fred Gaby 1934 US). Gaby, ed. part with Shannon Whirly as a high-class hooker involved in murder (3) (12557/9).
- 1.46 **Film Beauty and the Devil** (Neal Israel 1989 US). Comedy thriller about a wise-cracking policeman assigned to a witness-protection case (15453/4).
- 1.47 **US Act of Vengeance** (Robert Kalichen 1984 US). A rape victim takes revenge (163515/6). To 4.35pm

5.40 Want to Lead for Year? Holderships with children attempt to unmole the magic of Disney. Good luck. (S) (3586056).

5.30 Holiday Part. Kafforaven part, dog-earp (it doesn't come much clearer than this). Bone John Saunders celebrates continuing *Festivities* across Gaud Hartman to buy a catnip. (S) (3585663).

5.00 Film Search for Justice (No! Noosek, 1998 US). A search for a more interesting title might have been profitable. The over-familiar yarn stars *Two Peas* actress Peggy Lipton as a mother trying to get to the bottom of her daughter's death. Her marriage had broken down, but was she now suicidal? Or is her death linked to the couple she valued before her disappearance? (S) (T) (3583027).

6:00 100 Per Cent. The game show without a host (S)
(#621027)

6:30 Family Affairs. Pee Wee Roy is mad. Quzy is ...
digested when she visits the headmaster. Don't ask (S)
(T) (#514389).

7:00 5 News (S) (T) (#37308).

7:30 Wild Women. Wildlife documentary about bullrattle
crocodiles, which are usually thought of as friendly
creatures, but that's not a like perspective (#638507).

3.30 REUN The World's Oldest Living Bridegroom (Joseph L. Sheeran 1989 US). Queen of the American TV movie Donna Mills is given a treat from her usual tragic role to play a successful lawyer, engaged to third she has fallen in love with her male secretary (S) (890383-4).

5.20 Sunset Beach US soap which has to be seen to be believed. Arnie and Caitlin try to trace the mystery caller, using Eddie's teaching equipment, but they are

5.00 5 News and Sport (870301), **7.00** **WideWorld** (710301), **(7)** **(7)** **617259**, **7.30** **Whamline** (571455), **7.55** **Manzies House** (715327/761), **8.00** **Futurology** (710301), **(4)** **(4)**